



# THE EXPLORER

75TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GATHERING NEWS BSES HISTORY EXPEDITION UPDATE OPPORTUNITIES MEMBERS' NEWS OFFICE NEWS

## Famous Faces and an Inspiring Talk

### Pen Hadow talk 'To the Nth Degree - 90° North'

On 5th October Pen Hadow gave a spellbinding account of his trek, solo and unsupported, from the Canadian Arctic to the North Pole. This epic journey took 15 years and 3 attempts but eventually Pen achieved his goal.

Pen's account of his extraordinary achievement was modest, witty and inspiring and described in detail the mental and physical challenges experienced on his expedition. Assisted by various props including the pulk he used to haul his equipment hundreds of miles across the frozen Arctic Ocean, Pen tried to convince the audience that they could all achieve similar successes if they had enough passion and dedication. The majority of the lecture attendees however expressed their contentment to leave the extreme adventures to Pen and simply listen to his stories afterwards!

Following the lecture a dinner was held for 90 guests, with each table hosted by a well known explorer who regaled the room with stories of their adventures, triumphs and less successful expeditions! The wonderful evening ended with an auction of items generously donated by the Explorer hosts. Our thanks again to everyone who donated items to the auction, and also to the guests who bid so generously.

The success of the lecture, dinner and auction gave a fantastic start to the 75th Anniversary Appeal **raising over £8000**, and everyone agreed that the evening was hugely enjoyable. Please reserve **13th March** in your diaries and come along to the Royal Geographical Society to listen to Paul Rose's talk which promises to be equally entertaining.



left to right Ann Daniels, Caroline Hamilton, Rebecca Stephens, Pen Hadow, Polly Murray, Neil Laughton, John Blashford-Snell. Front: Robin Hanbury-Tenison, Mark Evans and Paul Rose



### 2006 Expeditions..THE RETURN

We are pleased to announce the safe return of all our 2006 summer expeditions.

Throughout the last weeks of August parents and office staff gathered excitedly at Heathrow to await the return of the some rather rugged looking young people. Some Fire groups lingered, unwilling to disperse, others seemed a little stunned by the bright lights of a London airport, but all were clearly brimming with enthusiasm for the adventures they had shared. Since then they have managed to wash out the smell, satisfy their cravings for 'proper' food and write up some of their tales for us....turn to page four for a full account!

## Welcome to the new look newsletter

We've had a fair few publication changes over our 75 year history; Dr Ian Ashwell takes us through highlights on page 9.

I hope you have enjoyed recent changes, the introduction of colour at the start of the year, the regular look back through our rich history (this issue looks back half a century at our Iceland expedition in 1956, page 8) and our new name THE EXPLORER which we feel better explains who we are and what we do.

We have bigger and more exciting plans for next year with themed issues planned, starting with an issue next spring dedicated to climate change. This will examine the scientific data that we have amassed in polar regions over the decades, provide an overview of our long-term climate change research plan and will feature interviews with leading figures.

Future editions will cover biodiversity, another of our long-term research subjects and human interaction with the environment. All will keep you updated on all your society news and the fantastic series of events taking place to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

If you would like to contribute then please contact me with your proposed outline by end of January 2007.

Enjoy!



djanira@bses.org.uk

## Members News

### South Georgia and Antarctica recce



A budding YE wishing to join the BSES Antarctica expedition.

The recce party will consist of a party of 8 members, including scientists, medics, mountaineers and logisticians.

The party will be visiting Deception Island and Paradise Bay in Antarctica and South Georgia departing at the end of October'06 until the end of December'06. The aim of the expedition will be to investigate adventurous activities and scientific projects which BSES can undertake over a 5 year work period. The results of the recce will be posted on the website and published in the spring newsletter.

# Members News

## David Nicholls (Footsteps of Shackleton '03)

*On the afternoon of the 4th July 2006, David Nicholls died suddenly from heart failure. David was unaware of any health problems, and was outwardly fit and extremely able. His passing creates a huge sense of loss for those family, friends and colleagues that are left. He was an incredible and inspirational gentle man.*



**Brigadier Dave Nicholls**, who has died suddenly aged 57, combined his thirty-year career in the Royal Marines with becoming the leading military mountaineer of his generation.

David Vernon Nicholls was born on February 23, 1949, twin son of Captain G H Nicholls OBE RN, who had been assistant secretary to Lord Mountbatten in India. David was educated at Ellesmere College and joined the Royal Marines in 1967.

David had a lifelong love of mountaineering: he founded his school climbing club; climbed in New Zealand, the Himalayas, and the Alps and Dolomites, where he made many first ascents, and he became an expert in mountain and arctic warfare. In 1988 he was disappointed not to reach the summit of Everest but as the weather worsened, he recalled, "all my mountain experience told me to come down." Some of David's achievements are recorded in John Barry's book "The Great Climbing Adventure" (1985).

In 2001 David contacted BSES with a proposal to lead an expedition for gap-year students called "Footsteps of Shackleton." Thanks in no small part to the good relations which David enjoyed with Chilean and British military authorities, two years later he took eight leaders and 21 young explorers for three months exploration and research in remote parts of southern Chile, the Falklands and South Georgia. A second smaller expedition to South Georgia took place in 2005, and earlier this year David was voted chairman of the BSES Expeditions Committee, responsible for overseeing the future programme of expeditions and their leadership.

David had worked very hard in creating links with HMS Endurance and delivering presentations on behalf of BSES over the last year. The plan was for BSES Expeditions to become stakeholders in HMS Endurances' 5 year work schedule. This is a fantastic and unique opportunity for BSES to work closely with local / international scientists and contribute to some useful ongoing research.

**The plans are already in place to ensure that the work David began with BSES will continue as he would have wanted.**

*Parts of the above article were written by Peter Hore and presented in the Telegraph Newspaper, 18th July 2006*

## Members Expeditions

### Antarctica – Matthew Owen

Matthew writes "I'm off to Antarctica next year with a group of friends based in Africa, seeking to combat our 40th birthdays with a little adventure. We're chartering a privately owned yacht from southern Argentina next Feb and hope to have a couple of week's on the Antarctic Peninsula doing some fairly basic climbing and trekking in the area of Brabant / Wiencke / Anvers Islands. Our levels of experience vary somewhat, from ex-British Army alpine ski team to ex-BSES YE / Raleigh expedition leader (that's me), to keen outdoorsmen with some non-technical climbing experience in Africa (Kilimanjaro, Rwenzori)."

### Cho Oyu 2006 Expedition

BSES Members **Ben Stephens** (YE India '97, Leader Iceland '00) and **Tori James** (YE Iceland 2000 and ex-BSES Office Staff) are part of a team who will attempt Everest in the BSES 75th Anniversary Year. Cho Oyu is the sixth highest mountain in the world. At 8,201m (26,906ft) it stands just 30 miles west of Everest and straddles the Tibet-Nepal boarder.

Tori talks about their training expedition:

"I was excited but anxious. The highest that I had ever climbed was Mont Blanc (4,808m/15,774ft) in July 2006. I knew that I could cope with the extreme cold having raced to the Magnetic North Pole in May 2005."

After struggling with altitude sickness, weather which put the expedition in doubt and spending over four weeks at an advanced base camp at 5,700m, the team was finally given a last minute summit window in early October.

After less than four hours sleep the team woke at camp 2 (7,100m) at 10pm ready for a midnight departure expecting temperatures of -23°C plus a wind chill on top of that. The 1,100 metre climb to the summit took Tori just eight hours. Unfortunately Ben was forced to turn back because of altitude sickness, having not had time to acclimatise sufficiently for the summit attempt because of the bad weather. However Tori made it up through the 'death zone', the height above which life cannot be sustained even with the use of supplemental oxygen where there is only 40% of the air at sea level. At the top she was rewarded with fantastic views of the team's next objective, the Everest range beyond!

Tori became the first Welsh Woman to summit Cho Oyu in the process.

The team is now in search of sponsorship to go to Everest in March 2007. Visit [www.everest2007.net](http://www.everest2007.net)

*Tori on the summit of Cho Oyu*



## Members Expeditions

### Svalbard spring crew back on mountains

Having just returned from the Arctic, the adventure bug was still biting and a month later Siobhan, Jacob, Anna, Nic, Megan and I met up in North Wales for a few days of scrambling.



*top of Snowdon, via the Crib Goch ridge.  
Clockwise from front Siobhan, Jacob, Yann, Megan, Nic and Anna.*

Desperate to get back into a Hyperspace (which BSES kindly lent) we then set off for the Alps to attempt La Haute Route, a 180km trek across the stunning French and Swiss mountains. On this occasion Siobhan, Anna, Nic and myself were joined by Rozzy.

We started in Chamonix with awesome views over the Mont Blanc Massif and crossed the Swiss border that same day. The snowline was surprisingly low and temperatures plummeted at night (luckily some of us had our arctic sleeping bags!). Although we tried packing "light", we took two tents and two weeks worth of dehydrated food. Combining this with mountaineering equipment and a rope resulted in our bags weighing over 20kg!

Along the way we crossed ibex, chamois and marmots and completed the route 12 days later in Zermatt. By initially going on an expedition with BSES, we have acquired the skills and confidence necessary to undertake a trip such as to the Alps, and hope to develop them further in future adventurous activities. **Yann Rashid** (Svalbard Spring 2006)

*Descending a col, R to L Anna, Yann, Rozzy and Nic*



29 8 2006



# Expedition Updates

Canoeing on river, Amazon

Inside tent, Greenland

## 2006 EXPEDITIONS...THE RETURN!!!

### The Amazon Rainforest

Forty young explorers joined a long-term research project investigating biodiversity, working with experienced scientists from the University of Peru and local indigenous people to aid the ongoing battle to preserve the Amazon jungle. We spent one week roughing it in the middle of the jungle besides a previously unexplored lake named Cocha Larga – this translates to Big Lake – which was edged with virgin rainforest and teeming with most types of tropical fish. Another two-week segment was carried out on two boats, allowing the young explorers to experience life on the Samiria River; and explore the jungle through a series of land sections of around 5km each. The abundance and diversity of the wildlife was incredible, making it impossible to walk without seeing at least two species of monkey, usually woolly and spider, copious types of birds and dozens of beautiful butterflies. *(Aislinn McNamara)*

### Peruvian Andes

The group returned to the same base camp as the 2005 BSES expedition, high in the White Mountains. The ice conditions had improved over the last year enabling all fire groups to trek up onto the glacier, reaching over 5000m to see amazing views and explore the surrounding area. The science was varied and successful with one fire identifying several new behavioural characteristics in the humming-bird population. A visit to Newton School to share their experiences with the local children rounded off the expedition well.

### Liverpool land, Greenland

After touchdown at Constable Pynt, a short dirt runway with a few hangers and cabins, we were shuttled across the Hurry Fjord by powerboat from the small town about 60km south of base camp. After 2 days training at base camp we then prepared for our ascent onto the Istorvet glacier, which was very steep, but gave me a chance to get used to walking with spiky crampons on boots. Camp was established on various nunataks high above Kalkdal valley, giving spectacular views over the ice cap, and sightings of arctic hares. We headed south along the coast, and used sites of pollution, of which there were many along the coast of the fjord, for our research, which was an Environmental Impact Assessment of the area. I saw bowhead whales swimming up the fjord one morning, which was an amazing sight. Our last summit, a mountain at the north of the glacier, was climbed late one night, so as to give views to the sun going behind the distant peaks. A fitting end to an amazing expedition. *(Helen Dunbar)*

### Leadership Development, Svalbard

This is the first year that BSES has run a leadership development programme and it proved to be a great success. Incorporating several training weekends in the UK prior to a month long expedition allowed the 15 young people to learn about different theoretical approaches to leadership as well as practical skills such as expedition first aid. Whilst in Svalbard they based themselves at the head of Billefjorde and practiced how to lead both science and adventure phases. Many of the young people have now gained their level 3 NVQ qualification in leadership and management.

Amazon members Maddy, Pippa, Amber and Charlotte

Peru expedition members at base camp

Peru rope work





Greenland expedition members



Leadership development, Svalbard

## 2008

The following expeditions are being planned for 2008. If you would like to apply to participate in any of these expeditions then simply download an application form from the website and send it in to the office.

### Arctic – Svalbard

**Chief Leader, Phil West** (*Leader on Greenland '03, Svalbard '04 and '05*)  
Svalbard is a far-flung Arctic wilderness on the edge of the Arctic Ocean and one of the most northerly islands in the world! Located just 600 miles from the North Pole, Svalbard is Europe's last true wilderness and offers unrivalled opportunities for real exploration and adventure. With more than 60% of the island enveloped by glaciers, there are fantastic opportunities for snow and ice training that will keep even the most experienced adventurer occupied.

### Jungle - Amazon

Following on from this summer's successful expedition we will be continuing our research in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve; a pristine area of incredible biodiversity that is only accessible to recognised scientific research programmes. This expedition provides the unique opportunity to work alongside a team of dedicated researchers and conservationists from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the University of Amazonian Studies to contribute to the preservation of one of the last true remaining wilderness areas on Earth.

### Mountains – Ladakh

**Chief Leader, Chris Horobin** (*Chief Leader Amazon 2006*)

We will be visiting the Nubra valley area which has recently opened up to foreign visitors. We are planning two main science projects; the first will be looking at the effects of altitude on the expedition party which will contribute to an ongoing project run by the British Mountaineering Council. The Nubra valley is very poorly mapped and so the expedition will be exploring surveying and mapping the area. There will be the opportunity to climb various 6,000m peaks one of which will be a first ascent.

## WORRIED ABOUT COST? EXPEDITION FUNDING AVAILABLE!!

We are in the fortunate position to have bursary funding available, from a number of trusts, to help young people join our expeditions from the following areas:

- Scotland
- S. Yorkshire and N. Derbyshire
- N E England and Channel Islands
- Scotland, Northumberland, Cumbria  
(with a keen interest in botany and alpine plants)
- Devon, Cornwall and Somerset
- South Wales
- Leadership
- State schools

If you know of a deserving young person in one of these areas then please do encourage them to apply for an expedition. We will also consider cases from other areas of the country on an individual basis. In addition to these bursaries we now also have a team of mentors around the country that are on-hand for practical support and advice through pre-expedition fundraising, training and preparations.

**Full details on both the mentoring and bursaries available are on the website [www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)**



Amazon expedition members measuring caiman

Leadership Development Programme, Svalbard



# Annual Gathering & AGM

**The Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 27th January 2007 at 11.00am in the Ondaatje Theatre at the Royal Geographical Society. The AGM Agenda, nominations for Council and papers, including several important resolutions, will be available on the members section of the website or by calling the office from 1st December 2006.**

All members are welcome to attend this meeting and express their views and ideas for the Society. The Exhibition Road entrance of the RGS will open at 10.30am.

Please note that 2006 expedition members who have not been a member of a previous BSES expedition are not eligible to attend the 2007 AGM.

## Presentations of 2006 Expeditions

Presentations of the 2006 Expeditions will take place in the Ondaatje Theatre of the Royal Geographical Society at 2.30pm on Saturday 27th January 2007 followed by refreshments and an opportunity to view the Expedition displays. Friends, families and members are very welcome and we are sorry that party sizes are restricted but space in the RGS is limited. In the event of over-subscription priority will be given to 2006 expeditioners if applications are received before 18th December. Tickets for Young Explorers and Leaders from the 2006 Expeditions are free and only £5 for guests and BSES Members. **The Ticket application form is on the back page and must be returned ASAP to ensure a place.**

## Events committee

Do you live in or near London? Would you or a friend/parent like to help us organise exciting events like Pen Hadow's fascinating talk last October? We are looking for volunteers to sit on an Events Committee to assist Henrietta planning one or two events each year. Meetings and duties will be kept to a minimum.

If you are interesting in joining like minded people and planning fun events contact [henrietta@bses.org.uk](mailto:henrietta@bses.org.uk)

## Madagascar Silk Appeal

**Ambolomanjakarivo is a village in Eastern Madagascar.**

The inhabitants are very poor and want to develop a means of maintaining their future. This is a much de-forested area and even simple subsistence agriculture is difficult. Silk worms thrive and there is huge potential for a silk project that would enable the villagers to be self supporting, but the villagers lack the knowledge or facilities to produce silk and sell it themselves. Sarah-Jane and I visited them on our recce for the 2007 expedition but were unable to fit the project to BSES criteria.

**All they need is £2,500 to help them get started.**

## Can you help?

If so please send me a cheque made out to 'Silk Appeal'. Nick Thompson., 25 Eastleigh Rd., Taunton. TA1 2YA or email me at [Nicknicktomp@aol.com](mailto:Nicknicktomp@aol.com).

I look forward to reporting to you that the project is underway in the next newsletter.

## Annual Gathering Dinner

A dinner will be held at Jurys Hotel, Great Russell Street following the 2006 Expedition Presentations. **Don't miss this chance** to catch up with your expedition friends. Tickets cost **£35** and include a three course dinner, half a bottle of wine and the opportunity to dance the night away. Tickets are limited and priority will be given to Young Explorers and Leaders from 2006 expeditions if application are received before 18th December. Ticket application form on back page. **The dress code for dinner is suits or cocktail dresses.**

## Stewards

As with previous years we would be extremely grateful for BSES members to volunteer as stewards for the Expedition Presentations. If you are able to help from 1.00pm until 6.00pm on Saturday 27th January please tick the relevant box on the application form and return it to Henrietta Staveley in the BSES Office. We recommend that stewards are not members of 2006 expeditions as you will be involved with other aspects of the Gathering. **Your help will be greatly appreciated.**

## Meet BBC Explorer at the RGS

**'VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY - A LIFE TIME OF EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURE'**

**Tuesday 13th March 2007 at 7pm**

Paul Rose has generously agreed to give a talk in the Ondaatje Theatre at the Royal Geographical Society in March to raise funds for BSES.

**Don't miss** this chance to hear Paul Rose, the charismatic television personality, mountain & polar guide, professional diver and Base Commander of Rothera Research Station for the British Antarctic Survey. Paul will talk about his new BBC series, Voyages of Discovery, and many of his other extraordinary adventures around the globe from Greenland to the Indian Ocean.

Tickets **£10** – bookings may be made on-line through [www.bses.org.uk/events](http://www.bses.org.uk/events), or by contacting **Henrietta at BSES Expeditions** [henrietta@bses.org.uk](mailto:henrietta@bses.org.uk) or **020 7591 3141**. Booking forms can also be downloaded from the 'Events' section of the website.





Fieldwork in Iceland, photo by Nick Hulton, School of GeoSciences, The University of Edinburgh

## Photography competition

A unique opportunity to showcase your talent and the chance to win a £50 STA Travel voucher!

### PRIZES

- The winner of each category will win a £50 STA Travel voucher
- The overall winning photograph will be used as the cover of the 2006 Annual Report
- All winners' names and photographs will appear in BSES' Spring 2007 newsletter and be posted on [www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)

Images will be judged on ability to capture the BSES expedition experience, as well as originality, technique and skill.

### HOW TO ENTER?

There are four categories in which to enter images:

1. Science research /conservation- e.g. surveying, lectures,
2. Adventure- e.g. jungle/mountain skills training, trekking
3. Teamwork and Camp life- e.g. working together, cooking, relaxing.
4. Wilderness – e.g. Landscapes and wildlife

Digital images preferred (300dpi)

Send to [Djanira@bses.org.uk](mailto:Djanira@bses.org.uk) or to Djanira at the office by Friday 12 January, 2007.

# COMPETITIONS

## Expedition article competition

A fantastic opportunity to write about your unique expedition experience and the chance to win a £50 STA Travel voucher!

### PRIZES

- The winner will win a £50 STA Travel voucher
- The Winners' name and diary extract will appear in BSES' Spring 2007 newsletter and be posted on [www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)

### HOW TO ENTER?

- Simply write an article that captures the BSES expedition experience in no more than 1,000 words.
- Submit your article in electronic format (by email, on CD or floppy) by Friday 12 January
- Don't forget to include your name, address, phone number, email address and expedition.
- Feel free to include photographs to accompany the article

Send to [Djanira@bses.org.uk](mailto:Djanira@bses.org.uk) or to Djanira at the office by Friday 12 January, 2007.

# COMPETITIONS

# 50 YEARS AGO

## BSES History

RECOLLECTIONS FROM  
THE GOOD OLD DAYS



Departure from Kings Cross Station

left - Brian Peaty, Mike Elliot, Dave Jeffrey, Mike Chapman, Wally Norton, Ray Achurch.

## Central Iceland 1956

by Ray Achurch and Mike Chapman

We were both pupils of the Royal Liberty School, Romford. There were in total six boys from the school on this expedition, an extraordinary feat as applications were received from schools all over the UK and competition for places was tough. The pupils at the Royal Liberty School were generally from more humble backgrounds and growing up in an outer suburb of London they had few experiences of the wider world. They had never slept under canvas before and simply being selected to join the expedition, travelling, camping, wild scenery and exploration by foot was an eye-opener and a challenge.



In Iceland Ray, Brian, Dave and Wally were in the Biology Group. They were included in a camel march to take supplies up to the eastern glacier of Langjokull icecap for the meteorologists. The biologists did a 10 day march to the Hverivellir Hot Springs and the Kerlingarfjoll Mountains, surrounded by their sulphurous steam vents. Accompanying the expedition was a top BBC outdoor broadcast cameramen called Mr A A Englander. He had no assistants and lugged his own gear around filming for a programme about the expedition. Ray and Brian were filmed having a bath in a hot spring, if it was ever aired they believe they must be among the very few, if not only, people to be show on the BBC without clothing!

The Long March, for which Ray and Brian were selected, covered approximately 180 miles including a first ascent to the highest point of the Hofsjokull Ice Cap. The going was tough and the party ended up having to sleeping out in the in the snow, it was not cosy but they survived. To counter the cold of the Ice Cap they ran around the tents to generate some heat. However, things were not all bad, at one of their campsite there was a very thick cushion of moss and Ray remembers heating up the porridge in the evening, burying it in the moss and the next morning it was a beautiful creamy breakfast.

**“To counter the cold of the Ice Cap they ran around the tents to generate some heat”**

Mike Chapman recalls one particular river crossing when he was grateful for the safety measures insisted on by the Leader. A rope was stretched across the river and everyone clipped onto it as they crossed so they would not be swept away by the fast flowing water. Unfortunately the rocks on the bottom were unstable with the current and Mike went under – the cameraman cleverly managed to capture the moment for posterity!

Clearly part of a rebellious Fire, Mike also remembers sitting in a tent on top of the Langsjokull glacier with four other boys, Mr Englander and their leader, Major Douglas. They sipped contraband whisky that Major Douglas had brought “for medicinal purposes” and listened to his stories of working with the SAS as a national-serviceman during the Malayan Insurgency of the early 50's. He won the Military Cross for his bravery.

The BSES expedition in 1956 was a high point of our lives, increasing confidence and self esteem greatly and prompting a life long interest in travel. The experiences are something never to be forgotten or missed.



50 YEARS AGO



# COULD YOU INSPIRE?

**Could you inspire young people to take geography further and talk passionately about geography?**

**Could you give a presentation to a group of school pupils on your BSES expedition, university course or research?**

**Geography Ambassador Scheme run by The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)**

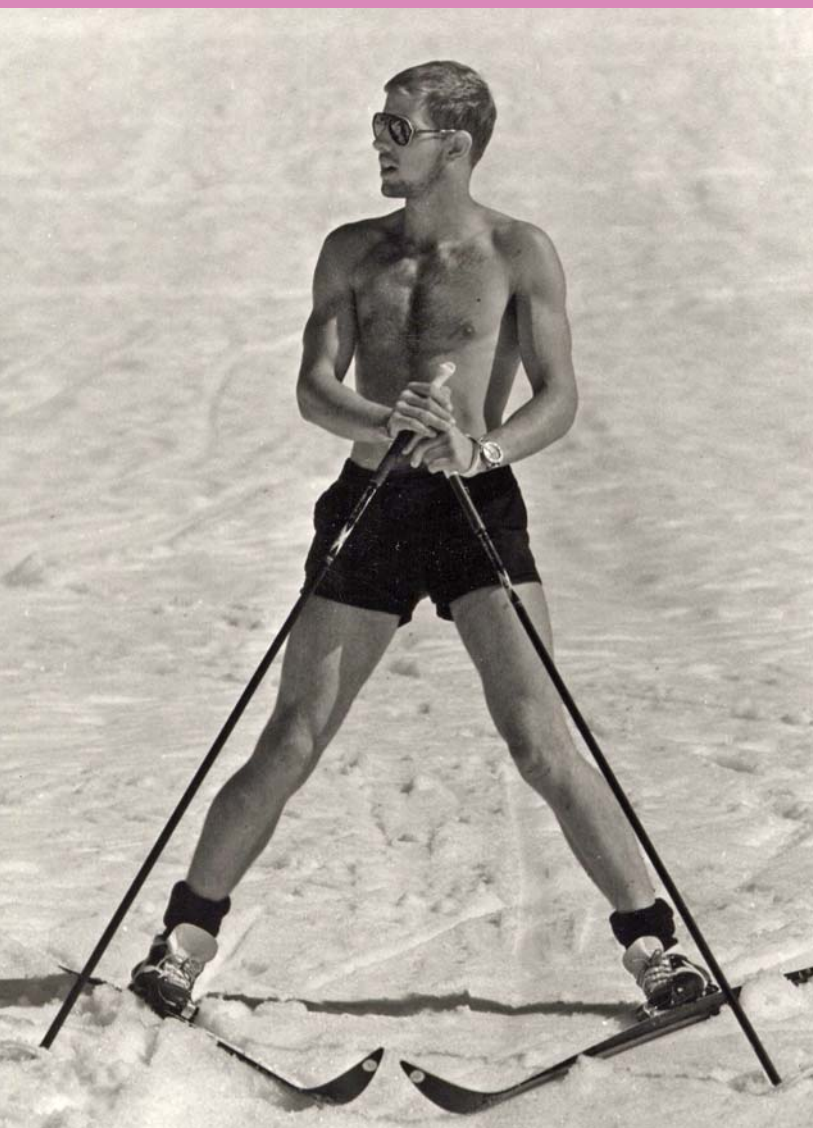


You don't need experience of working with children, just a desire to be a positive role model in the promotion of studying geography. You're only committed to attending a two hour training session and making one visit to a school in your area and all costs will be reimbursed. It will improve your employability and skills base as employers want people who have confidence and experience; and it will help you to spread the word about our expeditions.

Training events are planned in November and December for London, Leeds and Durham. Further regional dates will be added shortly.

This is a fantastic boost to your CV as you are able to demonstrate proven public speaking skills as an ambassador for both the Royal Geographical Society and the British Schools Exploring Society.

For more information visit [www.rgs.org/actionplan](http://www.rgs.org/actionplan), email [ambassadors@rgs.org](mailto:ambassadors@rgs.org) or call Alison on 020 7591 3050



Greenland '82

## IS THIS YOU?

The girls in the office want to know who you are!

## Publications History of the B.S.E.S

The cover of the 1937 PSES Annual Report in the last Newsletter jolts memories of the changes which have taken place in both publications. The 1937 volume was the first to be published by the Society itself. This was assembled in the BSES Office as soon as possible after the return of that year's (normally one) expedition, and required the expedition Leaders to have their reports ready virtually as soon as they set foot back in Britain. The format changed slightly when in 1967 Dr (now Sir) Martin Holdgate, an established field scientist was elected Chairman of Council. He had strong feelings about the scientific work and results of the Society's expeditions which he felt were not then given due prominence in the Annual Report. The second half of the 1970's saw a number of printers dealing with the Report with varying degrees of success and punctuality. The material of expedition reports in particular reached the Editor in various forms, often handwritten with diagrams and maps on the backs of envelopes. These had to be interpreted and typed by the Editor and some kind of publishable map drawn.

Early in the 1980's mainframe computers were augmented by the PC and by word processing programs which revolutionised editing by transferring many of the processes to the individual; so the BSES acquired a PC for the Editor who never looked back! This situation continued well into the 1990's when it became clear to Council that our Report appeared somewhat dowdy and uninformative about the Society's activities so the Annual Report saw a change to a glossy brochure containing expedition reports with the business, accounts and other Society material in a more sober setting stapled in the middle of the volume.

The Newsletter is a fairly recent addition to the publications. In about 1977 the then new Executive, Graham Derrick, began to circulate a biennial short newsletter. The frequency of the newsletter increased to two a year in 1980 and the format progressed until the 1990's when a large-page printed format was adopted, and now we have colour.

**Dr Ian Ashwell** (*Leader on Lyngen '83, E. Greenland '83, Iceland '92, Greenland '97 and Iceland '00; Council Member & Past Editor of BSES Publications*).

*This is an edited version of a more comprehensive article available from the office on request.*



BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY

## 75th Anniversary Update

The 75th Anniversary of the British Schools Exploring Society is fast approaching and a big thank you to those members who have been in touch with their reminiscences from past expeditions. We love to hear from you and are adding your expedition stories to the archive.



Caption to come

A number of members of the Society have expressed a desire to participate in 75 Summits but are unable to do so on 6th May. Don't worry, your achievements still count! Whether you are climbing a summit in the UK, Everest herself or something in between we would like to hear about it. Please let Henrietta in the BSES Office ([henrietta@bses.org.uk](mailto:henrietta@bses.org.uk)) have details of your summit and if possible a photo of you at the top. **Why not take a BSES burgee with you?** Burgees are available from the office for a minimum donation of £10.

## 75 SUMMITS

We are also continuing with planning for the **75 Summits** event on Sunday 6th May and are still looking for participants. Please get in touch with Geoff Billington as soon as possible if you would like to participate in this event - [geoffbilly@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geoffbilly@tiscali.co.uk)

### Members trek to central Finland 2007

75th anniversary return to the 1932 first BSES expedition site. Two weeks in August 2007. Opportunities for walking, canoeing, whitewater rafting and more.

Details from Andrew Toal T: 01530 459 457, M 07769 581 691  
E: [andytoal@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:andytoal@tiscali.co.uk)

### Somerset 75th peak

Calling all Somerset based members who wish to join me in celebrating this event by taking part in an ascent of the highest peak in the county, Dunkery Beacon 1,704 ft. This will be an arduous endeavour requiring, in these days of obsession with qualifications, at least supervision by an MIC. We may well need to recuperate in a local hostelry. Do get in contact if you are up for it. Nick Thompson T: 01823 324965, M: 07746 194664, E: [Nicknicktomp@aol.com](mailto:Nicknicktomp@aol.com)

## Win a bottle of Champagne

To make the 75 Summits event even more fun BSES has **three bottles of champagne** to give away. All you have to do is send in details, and ideally a photo, of your successful climb, anywhere in the world. We need to know who was in the party, which peak you climbed and when. **The prizes are for the 25th, 50th and 75th summits.** Please submit details to Henrietta at the BSES office, [henrietta@bses.org.uk](mailto:henrietta@bses.org.uk)



# Opportunities...

## EXPLORE 2006 24-26 November 2006

The annual RGS-IBG expedition and fieldwork planning seminar

### Inspiration - Contacts - Advice

Are you planning fieldwork or exploration in 2007? Whether your objective is field research, conservation or adventure, this is the place to find the inspiration, contacts and practical advice you need. A key event in the RGS-IBG calendar, Explore is the starting point for hundreds of expeditions each year. The emphasis is on small projects with a research component but anyone planning an overseas expedition or fieldwork is welcome.

Undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers, services personnel and disabled explorers are particularly encouraged to attend.

Over 100 leading field scientists and explorers with a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm will join us for the weekend. The programme comprises a morning of inspirational lectures followed by thematic workshops, one-to-one advice sessions and concurrent lectures focusing on specific topics and recent case studies.

Full details: [www.rgs.org/explore](http://www.rgs.org/explore)

### Event cost

Standard price **£94** (£80 + VAT) for the weekend

Students / un-waged **£65** (£55 + VAT)  
Other concessions available.

The price includes refreshments, lunch and course notes.

Booking forms are available from: [www.rgs.org/explore](http://www.rgs.org/explore)



## Archives

The BSES archives are now stored at our offices at the Royal Geographical Society.

**Justin Warwick** (*Northern Quebec '54*) has recently completed a History of Science MA at Imperial College and is in the process of checking and documenting the archives.

Please would you let us have any materials that you would like included in the archive.

## NEWS ITEM...NEWS ITEM...NEWS ITEM...

The controversial dam north of the icecap Vatnajökull in Iceland is now completed (1st October, 2006), and a new lake, Halslon, is filling to cover 57 sq. km. of wild landscape, including the area environmentally surveyed by the BSES 2004 expedition under Brian Needham in anticipation of its loss.

## NEWS ITEM...NEWS ITEM...NEWS ITEM...



## The Andrew Croft Memorial Fund

The Andrew Croft Memorial Fund was established in 1999 in memory of Andrew Croft, an Arctic explorer and extraordinary man.

In 1933-34 Andrew Croft was a member of Martin Lindsay's three man Trans-Greenland Expedition as principal dog driver and photographer. He wintered at Jakobshaven and then took part in the crossing of Greenland from east to west in 15 weeks, covering 1080 miles. In 1935-36 he served as Second-in-command of Glen's Oxford University North East Land Arctic Expedition, (Spitsbergen) where he spent a year sledging and mapping, and again taking charge of the dogs and photography. For this expedition he was awarded the Polar Medal and later received the Back Award of the Royal Geographical Society. There were many other adventures besides this, and he became known as an Arctic expert and specialist.

During the Second World War Andrew Croft served behind enemy lines in Finland, Norway, Denmark, France and Italy. He joined in long-range ice reconnaissance missions mapping the southern limits of Arctic drift ice for the benefits of the convoys to Russia and then operated with Special Forces units and commanded small boat units. He was awarded the DSO for this dangerous work.

In his subsequent range of postings he was responsible for Army Junior Leaders and Police Force cadets training at the newly established Hendon Police College. Croft had a remarkable career throughout which he remained committed to youth leadership training, especially in the outdoors. The links with BSES's activities and values are obvious and enduring to this day.

The Andrew Croft Memorial Fund continues to provide BSES with financial support for Arctic Exploration and Leadership Development on our expeditions. We are delighted to announce that Julia Korner, Croft's younger daughter and a committed supporter of BSES has agreed to be a Patron of the 2007 Greenland Expedition to Disko Island. This is especially appropriate as Disko Island is a part of Greenland that her father knew well.

### Footnote

Andrew Croft has written a fantastic autobiography, 'A talent for adventure'. Sadly it is no longer in print and therefore treated like gold dust. However if you are able to track down a copy it is a highly recommended read.



## Les Morgan Memorial Award/Memorial Fund

The award is given in memory of Les Morgan who died in 2004 of Motor Neurone Disease. A coalminer's son from South Wales, Les was a big man in all respects. He loved and dedicated a large part of his life to open, wild spaces and encouraging young people to understand them and learn about themselves from them. BSES captured many things that were close to his heart, not the least of these being leadership and especially dealing with adversity. He believed that you led, sometime from the front, sometimes from the sidelines but you always looked out for one another.

Adversity was something to be confronted and learnt from, even if it was in retreat. Pushing the boundaries of your own capabilities and encouraging others to do the same characterised him but he always made sure that those in his team were safe, fed and warm and, if possible, having fun.

Les was a well loved and respected Leader and Chief Leader for BSES. He would have been delighted to contribute to the Society in an ongoing way and it is for this reason that two awards will be made in his name.

### The Les Morgan Leadership Award

This is an annual award which will be made to a YE who has shown exceptional initiative or leadership in adverse circumstances on an expedition. This award will be made on the recommendation of the Expedition Chief Leader and judged by the BSES Expeditions Committee.

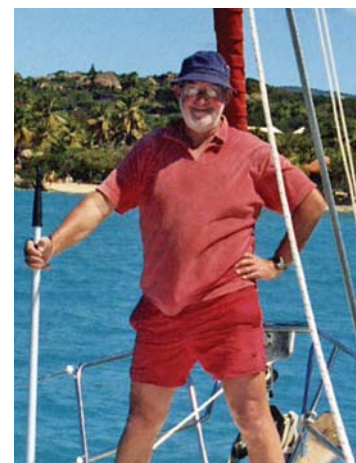
### The Les Morgan Bursaries

Three awards of £500 will be made each year to support the fundraising of YE's from South Wales. YE's will need to apply in writing to the BSES Office by 31st March each year, and the BSES Executive Director and Team will make the awards to those who they judge to be the most deserving of support and with most to gain from participation in the expedition.

## Office News

### Farewell to Robert

We are sorry to announce that Robert Kibble will be leaving BSES at Christmas. Robert has been our Accountant since the summer of 2003 and has tried to keep a tight rein on the purse strings for us. He is going to be enjoying a slower pace of life with his wife, spending more of his time on gardening, sailing and fine wine and less time doing sums.



# BSES ANNUAL GATHERING TICKET ORDER FORM 2007

Please return this form with a stamped addressed envelope and any payment required to:

Henrietta Staveley, BSES Expeditions, at The Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR.

Priority ticket deadline 18th December 2006,  
final deadline 12th January 2007

## 2006 Expedition Presentations

I require the following tickets to the lecture presentations:

..... 2006 Young Explorer / Leader (free of charge)  
..... Guest tickets @ £5 each (Max 2 guests per YE or Leader)  
..... BSES Members' tickets @ £5 per member

In the event of over-subscription priority will be given to 2006 expeditioners

## 2006 Annual Gathering Dinner

I require ..... tickets to the dinner @ £35 per person

Special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarian) .....

We are sorry but dinner tickets are non-refundable.

In the event of over-subscription priority will be given to 2006 expeditioners

## Stewards

I would like to volunteer as a steward  
from 1.00pm – 6.00pm on 27th January 2007

Yes, I can help at the Annual Gathering (please tick)

Tel No. (day/eve/mobile) .....

Name .....

Address .....

Expedition .....

E-mail address .....

I enclose a cheque (payable to BSES Expeditions) for £ .....

## JOB POSITION AVAILABLE

### Part-time Finance Officer

Based at the BSES offices in South Kensington, London on a part time basis (2 days per week).

You should have an excellent working knowledge of commercial and charity accounting and will be responsible for all accounting and book keeping using Quickbooks.

Role is particularly suitable for someone who has retired, or is about to, from a previous accounting / book keeping appointment.

Contact BSES for a job spec and salary

T 020 7591 3141 E [info@bses.org.uk](mailto:info@bses.org.uk) W [www.bses.org.uk](http://www.bses.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is Monday 4th December 2006. Interviews will take place shortly thereafter and you will start in early January, 2007.



# 2007 Expeditions

Next summers expeditions are filling up fast, so if you know someone who would like to participate please urge them to apply ASAP.

2007 opportunities:

Join an expedition investigating biodiversity in either the Amazon or Malagasy rainforest.

## MADAGASCAR

Collaborate with researchers from the University of Antanarivo in the Malagasy rainforest to study Madagascar's unique primate species and help create a green corridor for wildlife migration.

## AMAZON RAINFOREST

Journey deep into the unexplored rainforest and discover a whole new world whilst contributing to long-term research and conservation.

## YUKON TERRITORY

This expedition offers unrivalled adventure opportunities in varied terrain from climbing in the towering mountains, to Canadian canoeing and the chance to undertake a 24-hour solo.

## DISKO ISLAND – GREENLAND

Become be an Arctic Explorer next summer by joining our expedition investigating climate change in Arctic Greenland.

## Get qualified on our Leadership Development Programme (LDP)

The LDP offers you the chance to develop essential career and expedition leadership skills, as well as gaining nationally-recognised qualifications in the context of a challenging Arctic expedition to the stunning remote wilderness of Svalbard.

Successful completion will result in:

- The award of an NVQ Level 3 in Leadership and Management;
- A certificated Adventure First Aid qualification
- Preparation for the ML (summer) award training
- Training to the standard required to join the leader team on a youth wilderness expeditions for BSES in the future

You will also have gained five months of practical experience of planning and delivering projects related to the running of an expedition, and a month of practical experience in the wilderness environment of Svalbard developing and practicing the soft and hard skills of leadership.

Further information and application forms for all these expeditions can be downloaded from the website.

