

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 802196

Details

Other names	BRITISH SCHOOLS EXPLORING SOCIETY, BSES, BSES EXPEDITIONS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02411786
Registered	1989-12-05
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	British Exploring Society c/o Royal Geographical Society 1 Kensington Gore London SW72AR
Phone	0204 534 0777
Email	info@britishexploring.org
Website	http://britishexploring.org

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE BY PROVIDING INSPIRATIONAL, CHALLENGING, SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS TO REMOTE, WILD ENVIRONMENTS AND SO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CONFIDENCE, TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP AND SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE AND EXPLORATION

Activities: British Exploring Society is an educational charity. We inspire young people from all backgrounds to unlock their potential through exploration on demanding and scientific expeditions, helping them and society better understand the world around us.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£903,661	£1,173,985	£293,057	19
2023-10-31	£1,615,677	£1,828,694	£563,382	18
2022-10-31	£1,571,104	£1,622,872	£776,399	18
2021-10-31	£1,255,362	£1,176,344	£828,167	18
2020-10-31	£1,276,453	£904,881	£749,149	17

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carolyn Young		2017-07-06
James Hopkinson		2022-04-07
James Smith		2024-04-10
Mark Christopher Fawcett		2022-04-07
Rahul Nath Moodgal		2019-07-23
Richard Kleiner		2024-11-14
Sarah Greasley		2024-04-10
Timothy Mark Passingham		2022-04-07

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 802196

Accounts



Annual report & Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024

Unlocking **self-belief** since 1932



**BRITISH
EXPLORING
SOCIETY**



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

79%

OF MEMBERS AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT THEIR EXPEDITION CHANGED THE COURSE OF THEIR LIFE

Charity registration number	802196
Company number	2411786
Registered office and principal place of business	1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR
Email address	info@britishexploring.org
Web address	www.britishexploring.org
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC, 49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX
Independent Examiner	Chariot House Limited
President	Lord Rees OBE (Interim Chair, appointed Oct 2024)

Members of Council	Lord Rees OBE (Interim Chair, appointed Oct 2024)
	Carolyn Young
	Jim Hopkinson
	Mark Fawcett
	Rahul Moodgal
	Tim Passingham
	James Smith (appointed Feb 2024)
	Lindsay Selmes (appointed Feb 2024)
	Sarah Greasley (appointed Feb 2024)
	Richard Kleiner (Treasurer – Appointed Oct 2024)
	Ian Maginnis (Chair, retired April 2024)
	Susan Redshaw (retired April 2024)
	David Tilston (Treasurer, resigned Oct 2024)
	David Wells (resigned April 2024)
	Dr Claire Royston (resigned Sept 2024)
	Richard Walton (Chair, appointed Nov 2023, resigned Oct 2024)

The Council (board of trustees) presents its report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document (Articles of Association), the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).



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ABOUT US



I think it's something every young person deserves the opportunity to do and I can't emphasise enough that if you take that opportunity you won't regret it."

Young Explorer Feedback

British Exploring Society is a youth development charity founded in 1932 by Surgeon Commander George Murray Levick RN, a member of Captain Scott's final Antarctic expedition (1910-1913).

Much has changed since then. But the core idea - young people preparing for life by developing resilience and confidence through adventure and learning in a remote wilderness in small self-contained groups - remains at the heart of our work and is reflected in our purpose, vision and mission.

Our Purpose

To help young people unlock self-belief - to Find their Fire.

Our Vision

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

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.

Our core values are **Courage, Challenge, Community and Self-Belief**. As you read through this report, you'll see these values and their impact clearly reflected in personal testimony, through programme design, and in the outcomes we report.

Since 1932

229

EXPEDITIONS HAVE BEEN RUN ACROSS 6 CONTINENTS AND AT LEAST 99 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS.

- Well over **10,000** young people's self-belief has been unlocked.
- **4** expeditions were sponsored by a tinned fruit manufacturer
- Over **1,000** Fire journals, diaries and scrapbooks have been created and archived
- **1,890,000** mugs of tea have been drunk*
- And **∞** recipes for porridge have been discovered**

*Based on our tea per head, per expedition formula

**Based entirely on anecdotal evidence.



OUR APPROACH

Over 90 years of learning how best to combine Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development, in wild and remote places. Unlocking self-belief in diverse groups of young people with the support of exceptional leaders and role models.

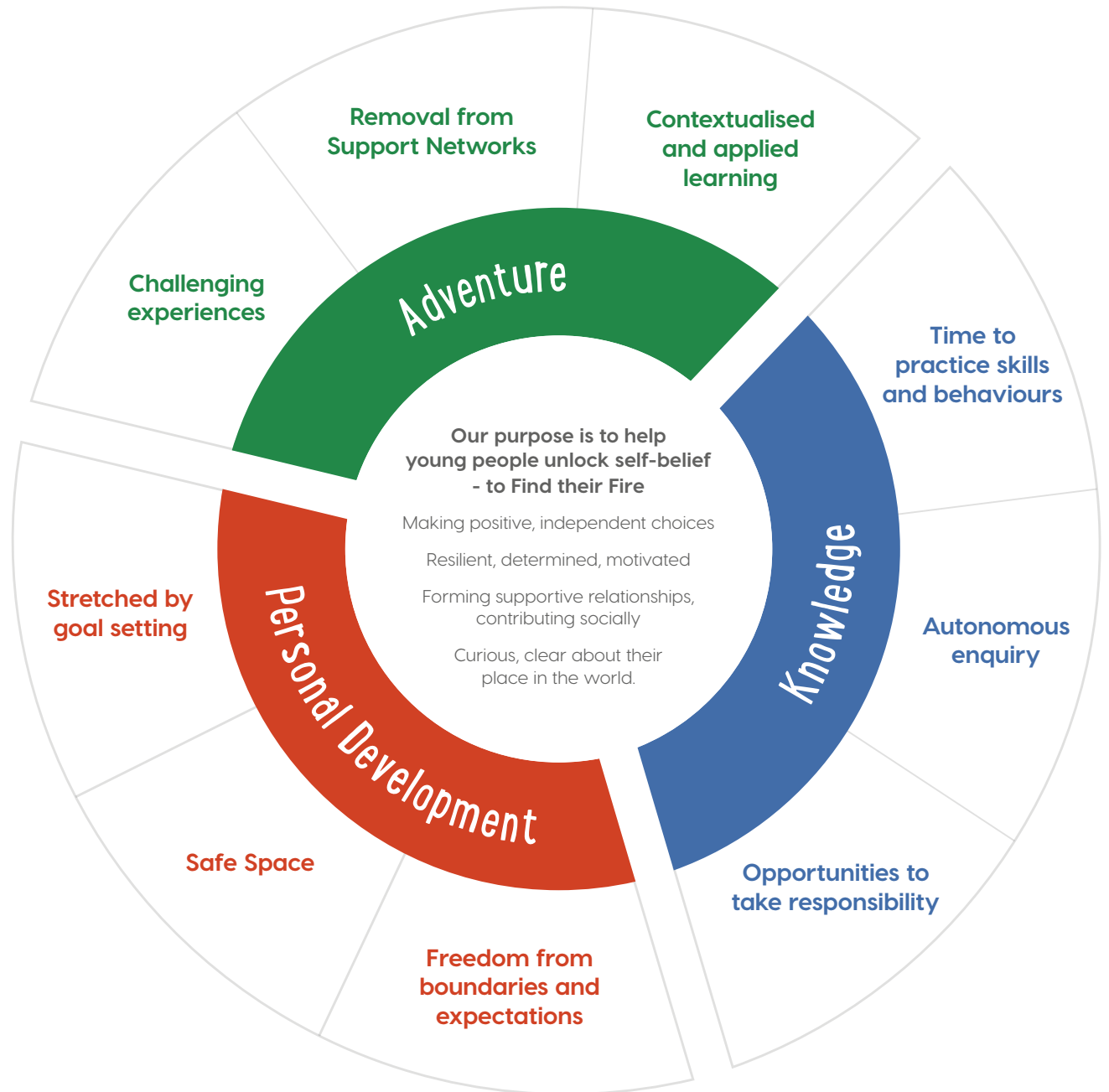
Our 3-part approach gives young people, particularly those who are most disadvantaged, the ideal opportunity to grow and thrive in the face of (and importantly away from) the challenges they live with.

And it ensures we continually ask ourselves:

- Who are we trying to help?
- What are we trying to fix?
- How will we try and fix it?
- How will we know it has worked?



MEET SOME OF OUR YOUNG EXPLORERS TO GET A SENSE OF OUR APPROACH IN ACTION





FULLY FUNDED ADVENTURES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

British Exploring Society
is entirely dependent
on fundraising, and
on the generosity
of its supporters.

Through participation in these challenging physical and emotional activities, outdoor adventure learning interventions can support pupils to develop non-cognitive skills such as resilience, self-confidence and motivation.”

The application of these non-cognitive skills in the classroom may in turn have a positive effect on academic outcomes.”

**Education Endowment
Foundation**

With the support of an amazing community of donors, we are able to provide fully funded expedition programme places for all. This provides a fair and equal starting point for all young people.

But over 90 years of experience tells us that personal fundraising is also an important challenge which develops potent life skills and fosters commitment, so we undertake a simple means test for all young people and support them to fundraise to an achievable goal.

Young Explorers – or their guardians if they are under 18 years of age – are asked questions about their total household income/any state benefits.

Household income bands are divided by the following scale:

- **Band 1** £0 < £23,000
- **Band 2** £23,001 – £45,000
- **Band 3** £45,001+

54% of Young Explorers that went on expedition declared total household income below £23,000. This placed them on Band 1, our most accessible fundraising target. 41% of Young Explorers were on Band 1 in 2023.

Participant fundraising embeds new determination and confidence, supports opportunities for young people in the future, and underpins our commitment to community.

“To fundraise, I made a pledge to draw in Iceland and then people who donated received a drawing from me when I returned. It’s helped me reach out to people and try something new.”

Holly,
Young Explorer





REACHING THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST



I found British Exploring Society through an ad on Instagram, just after my psychiatrist suggested I seek out an adventure in nature to help with my PTSD.”

Rahim,
Young Explorer



20% OF YOUNG EXPLORERS LEARNT ABOUT OUR PROGRAMMES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA – A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS.

This is notable because in 2024 we allocated more resources towards paid advertising on social media than we had done previously, in a bid to reach young people who otherwise would not have come across us organically.

We work with young people aged 14-25 years from across the UK, and while any young person can apply to join our programmes, we’re particularly focused on finding and supporting those from communities lacking access, or the confidence to access, learning opportunities outside the classroom, or individuals with poor educational and employment prospects, and young people facing personal, emotional and social difficulties.

Widening access to our programmes via partnerships with youth organisations, schools and charities means young people who may never consider one of our programmes for themselves are supported and encouraged to join us by someone they know and trust.

We are indebted to long-term partners like Catch22 who have worked closely with us for many seasons. This year, 46% of Young Explorers came through our partners and 23% of Young Explorers learnt about British Exploring Society from friends and family. These numbers are consistent with the previous season.





Introduction

Our Programmes

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Financials



MEET ELLIE, NAFFIE & RAHIM

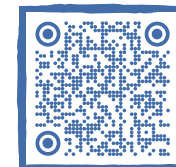
There is no universal ‘youth voice’. Each young person who joins us is unique. Ellie, Naffie and Rahim speak for themselves, but the diversity of their stories points to the breadth of experience within our community of participants every year.

Their words are uplifting. They help us explain the need we are here to meet, and they shine a light on the capacity of young people everywhere, still, to be courageous and to tackle challenges when they feel empowered and supported.

It matters to us that while reading a report like this, we never forget that there are real people with remarkable stories behind the numbers.

So, we’ve asked Ellie, Naffie and Rahim to continue to add their personal insights and reflections throughout this report.

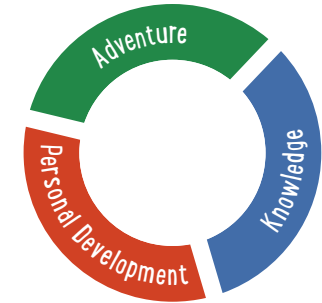
You will also find anonymous quotes from other Young Explorers in this report, where the words of young people illustrate key parts of the text better than anything we can claim. These words were all supplied in post-expedition surveys, or as part of real-life stories, in 2024.



READ MORE YOUNG
PEOPLE'S REAL LIFE
STORIES HERE



ELLIE



Having pushed themselves to pursue a career in what is historically not a diverse or inclusive sector, and after working for 2 years as a Community Engagement Ranger in the Scottish Highlands and feeling like an “imposter”, Ellie was looking for an opportunity that would challenge them to find the courage to take the next step on their development journey.



This shot is of me on expedition just beneath the summit of Mount Ushba, in Georgia.”

Ellie,
Young Explorer

“We’re always told, “believe in yourself” as we grow up, but that’s something I’ve struggled with since school. I grew up as one of the weird kids, never getting through a week with quite as much style and ease as my peers. Now into adulthood, that thought manifests as a real lack of self-confidence, and oodles of doubt..

I knew my abilities were there, I just had to believe in them.

So, when I heard about British Exploring Society’s Pinnacle Wild Leadership Programme, it sounded like exactly what I needed.

I threw myself into the training and fundraising with huge enthusiasm... But as our departure date drew closer, the reality sank in, along with the self-doubt that I could go through with it..

I learnt so much over the course of the expedition, from the challenging environment we were embracing, and from the rest of my Fire.

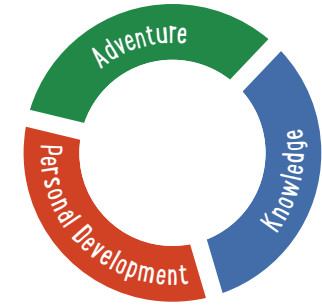
There were plenty of opportunities to put into practice the leadership theories we’d learned about during the training... With each day my confidence grew along with the self-belief that if I could do this, I could do anything.

My understanding of the mountains and leading others in them has come on leaps and bounds. So much so, I’ve finally had the confidence and experience to do my Summer Mountain Leader training with Mountaineering Scotland in the Cairngorms... I hope to do my assessment next year, and then return as a British Exploring Society Leader in the not too distant future.

I thought back to my last year of university, stuck in the tenement flat in Glasgow, dreaming of one day being in the mountains. I’d finally made it.”



NAFFIE



Naffie joined us aged 16, through our partner the National Fostering Group (NFG). NFG help us to ensure that the opportunities we offer reach young people living in care.



This is me taking a quick break from walking during a 3-night trek away from basecamp in the Cairngorms.”

Naffie,
Young Explorer

“I remember when one of my social workers brought up young exploring. Honestly, it was not my thing. I just went along with it to keep things simple and move on.

Coming to training made me consider going on the expedition more. **But all the information and the ideas of pushing me out of my comfort zone got quite overwhelming, especially since it's something I am not used to.**

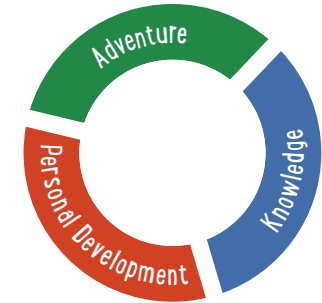
The sound of two weeks away from home without a phone, no toilet, no proper shower and food was something I was not ready for mentally and physically. However, towards the end of the training, spending time and working with amazing people in my team helped to put all the negative thoughts aside and think about all the good things I'll be getting out of this trip. It helped to know everyone in my team was feeling as nervous as me.

Going on this expedition pushed me to open up and embrace my emotions.

It made me realise that it's okay to express how I feel and that it can help me be more authentic to myself. The support from my Leaders by creating activities that involve expressing emotions has encouraged me to be true to myself in the future and instead of hiding my feelings away, talk about them as that can make me feel alright in the end.

Having that space to share my feelings with my team and Leaders every day has given me encouragement in the future to express my feelings with friends and family.

Getting out of my comfort zone was like opening a door to a whole new world of possibilities. When I stepped out of that cosy zone, **it helped me to push myself to grow, learn, and experience things I never thought possible.** It's all about expanding your horizons, taking on challenges, and discovering the best version of yourself.”



RAHIM



At age 19, Rahim found us independently after his psychiatrist had encouraged him to seek an adventure in nature. As a refugee and survivor of armed conflict, Rahim worried he'd fit in with his Fire. With his courage, and with support and encouragement, he took the risk and thrived.



That's me at our Explorer Celebrations event, where I was awarded the Moodgal Inspiration Award. Head to page 29 to learn a bit more about that."

Rahim,
Young Explorer

"It was a typical rainy day in Glasgow, just like usual. I had just returned from my appointment with the psychiatrist, as I was undergoing treatment for PTSD. While browsing my phone, I was surprised by an Instagram ad about British Exploring Society and joining an expedition. It felt as if my phone was eavesdropping on me, especially since the doctor had advised me to step out of my comfort zone and seek an adventure in nature, even if it was a small one.

I applied and I was contacted by British Exploring Society team. **They patiently explained what I was getting into and how the expedition will be.** I felt like I was taking a big risk, especially because I struggle a bit with English... I questioned myself a lot – how would I be able to make friends? Would I be accepted by them, given that I come from a very different culture?

In a blink of an eye 13 days went by. We had 13 days of long walks, climbing hills, uncomfortable sleeping, tasteless food, and midges. On the other hand, it was 13 days of wonders, mountains, rivers, lakes, amazing views, and wildflowers and animals.

Once upon a time in different circumstances, these were far dreams and imaginary pictures for me. If I had been told several years ago that I would find myself on the top of a mountain, resting on the clouds, in a remote area where the only sound is the flowing river and the only light is the shining stars, I would never have believed it. I never imagined that I would survive the war, nor did I think I would live to see my 20th birthday.

After returning home, the change in my mental state was significant and noticeable, and I felt an overwhelming happiness.

I realized that there was still so much more for me to see and explore, and I felt a greater ability to manage my feelings."



OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE

By Honor Wilson-Fletcher, CEO of British Exploring Society



Unlocking the door: the cycle of anxiety and stress for young people

2024 was a year of amazing individual outcomes – and of robust, urgent reflection. Our commitment to working with underrepresented, disadvantaged groups of young people was severely challenged

Despite increasing focus on one-to-one support and partnership with organisations providing practical and pastoral back up, 41 young people dropped out of our programmes post-confirmation, the highest number ever.

We cannot help young people who are not with us. Those we are focused on supporting are most likely to have experienced significant and lasting negative consequences, many relating to their mental health, post-COVID.

Pre-existing mental health conditions reappeared and deteriorated; **black/black British children** bore the brunt of economic disadvantage during COVID - a strong risk factor for mental illness - and **those already at risk of abuse and neglect** with the loss of support structures, closure of schools and switch to online social service provision experienced increased exposure.

Affected young people are withdrawing from school, work, programmes like ours and social activities. They have avoided seeing friends and family and stopped applying for jobs or attending interviews.

Unauthorised and authorised absence rates from school are very high and those who become absent, are more likely to stay absent. The Prince's Trust Index reports that 35% now believe their mental health will stop them achieving their ambitions altogether.

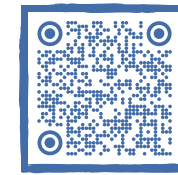
55% describe their poor mental health as anxiety and 62% describe experiencing stress - in relation to school, work, socialising, the unknown. Anxiety and stress reduce trust, wipe out confidence and undermine resilience. We wish to recognise and mitigate the impact of anxiety and low resilience to enable young people to join us.

By the end of 2024 we had reviewed our programmes to acknowledge changes in behaviour and attitudes – to give young people access at a pace they can manage - to the opportunities most likely to support them in conquering their anxiety and poor well-being. If we can help them conquer their fears and stay with us, it is more rewarding than ever to see how quickly they start to build agency and confidence.

We hope you consider all this, as you digest this report and read a little about our plans for 2025 and beyond.



FINDING A SOLUTION!



SCAN TO LISTEN TO MARTIN AND HONOR IN CONVERSATION.



Experiential team-based adventures with outstanding Leaders offer a powerful way to role-model and develop empathy. Empathy helps keep you safer. It provides a foundation for appropriate risk-taking and enables you to be confident, curious and to participate more fully.

It's hard to imagine a parent or carer not enthusiastically agreeing to their child taking part in an empathy-building program. It's a building block for well-being, after all.

So what's getting in the way? And why do so few state schools prioritise adventurous activities?

We need courageous future leaders. We rely on there being energetic and enterprising entrepreneurs willing to take risks - driving up productivity and spearheading invention, to contribute to our national ability to resource the services we need, and to help our citizens to thrive.

Given the evidence of long-term positive impact demonstrated in this annual report - and from other organisations working in the outdoors - you would hope that every young person in the country should already be in possession of a pair of boots and a waterproof jacket by the time they get to secondary school.

In our first episode of **The Basecamp Broadcast**, recorded to support publication of this annual report, Martin Houghton-Brown, Secretary-General of the Duke of Edinburgh International Award and I pondered why charitable organisations working with young people face a range of challenges. He brought a uniquely international perspective to our conversation which was invaluable. **We considered what we need to do (and are already doing) to ensure that the long-lasting benefits of what we still sometimes call 'type-two fun' are available to all.** And of course, we celebrated the intense privilege of working with young people.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2024

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the individuals and organisations whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our achievements this year.

To those who wish to remain anonymous, please know that your contributions are appreciated and have not gone unnoticed.

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Our Programmes

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Trusts/Foundation

Andrew Croft Memorial Fund - Carpenter Charitable Trust - Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust - Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Charitable Trust - Exilarch's Foundation (The) - Foyle Foundation - French Huguenot Church of London Charitable Trust - Gill Foundation - Hartz Family Foundation (The) - John Armitage Charitable Trust - John Scott Charitable Trust - Lord Barnby's Foundation - Mainhouse Charitable Trust - Peacock Charitable Trust - PF Charitable Trust - Portal Trust (The) - Progress Foundation - Project Giving Back - Roger Raymond Charitable Trust - Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement - Swire Charitable Trust - T5 Dare - Tunicate Trust

Patrons

Arabella Connell - Bryan and Maureen Wilsher - Daragh & Anne Horgan - David & Judy Dangoor - David Simonson - Ian and Janet Sinclair - Jeff Owen - John & Catherine Hartz - Michael Oakley - Nick Hide - Nigel Vardy - Rahul Moodgal - Reepa & Krupesh Patel - Tim Passingham

Trustees

Lord Rees OBE FBES (Interim Chair appointed Oct 2024) - Carolyn Young - James Smith (appointed Feb 2024) - Jim Hopkinson - Lindsay Selmes (appointed Feb 2024) - Mark Fawcett - Rahul Moodgal - Sarah Greasley (appointed Feb 2024) - Tim Passingham - Richard Kleiner (Treasurer - Appointed Oct 2024) - Ian Maginnis (Chair, retired April 2024) - Susan Redshaw (retired April 2024) - David Tilston (Treasurer, resigned Oct 2024) - David Wells (resigned April 2024) - Dr Claire Royston (resigned Sept 2024) - Richard Walton (Chair, appointed Nov 2023, resigned Oct 2024)

Development Board

Arabella Connell - Ben Saunders FBES - Carlotta Newbury - Duncan Souster - Jon Slade - Krupesh Patel - Petra Dismorr - Rahul Moodgal (Chair) - Stuart Denard - Tim Passingham

Fellows

Lord Rees OBE FBES - Alex Gregory MBE FBES - Belinda Kirk FBES - Ben Saunders FBES - Bruce Manning FBES - Caroline Hodges FBES - Chris Wright FBES - Colonel John Blasford Snell CBE FBES - Daragh Horgan FBES - David Dangoor FBES - Doug Oppenheim FBES - Dr Lucy Obolensky FBES - Dr Peter Allison FBES -

Guðrún Tryggvadóttir FBES - Honor Wilson-Fletcher MBE FBES - James Dyer FBES - Jules Penney FBES - Justin Warwick FBES - Lieutenant General Peter Pearson CB CBE FBES - Major General Sir Michael Hobbs KCVO CBE FBES - Nigel Harling FBES - Pen Hadow FBES - Preet Chandi MBE FBES - Sir Ranulph Fiennes OBE FBES - Steve Jones FRGS FEWN FBES - Teddy Watson FBES - Tori James FBES

Individuals

Andy Browning - Caroline Hodges - Charlie Marlow Thomas - Ed Bussey - Guy Wilner - Ian & Janet Sinclair - Rebecca Loutchina-Myndiuk - Sue Brown - Sunny Elvy - Susannah Cass

Companies/Organisations

Bain & Company - Brown Advisory - Cambridge Management Consulting - Catch22 - Financial Times - Galvanise Climate Solutions - Kanishka by Atul Kochhar - The Milestone Hotel & Residences - Moxton Education - National Fostering Group - North Peak Advisory

Tech/board advisors

Arabella Connell - Chris Heaney - Daragh Horgan FBES - James Dyer FBES - Krupesh Patel - Lucy Obolensky FBES - Mat Etheridge - Nigel Williams - Rachel Smillie - Rupert Eastwood



2024 IN NUMBERS



- Introduction
- Our Programmes
- Our Impact
- Financials

284
 YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED
 ACROSS ALL OUR PROGRAMMES

100
 NIGHTS IN TENTS

We also...

- Broadened the horizons of **95% of Young Explorers**
- Supported **16 care-experienced Young Explorers** to take part on multi-week expeditions

153
 YOUNG PEOPLE INTRODUCED
 TO ADVENTURE VIA ONE OF
 OUR HALF-DAY EXPEDITION
 WORKSHOPS

46
 VOLUNTEER EXPEDITION
 LEADERS GAVE THEIR
 TIME AND EXPERTISE

Sharing brews, news and views since 1932

92 years is a long life for a community of shared experience.

Go to page 39 to learn more about what our Members tell us about the sustained positive impact of their journeys with us 10, 20 or 30 years ago.

69
 YOUNG EXPLORERS EMBARKED
 ON MULTI-WEEK EXPEDITIONS

19
 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL WEEKS OF
 SUPPORT (ON AVERAGE) RECEIVED
 BY YOUNG EXPLORERS, HELPING
 THEM UNLOCK SELF-BELIEF.

Marriages and families have been forged through connections at British Exploring Society, and there are a good number of households where young people are now turning up with the rucksacks (and stories) supplied by their grandparents on expedition. So much has changed over those 92 years – but some things haven't changed at all. We witness and value the genuine shared experience of young people irrespective of when they joined us, their background, or how they found us.

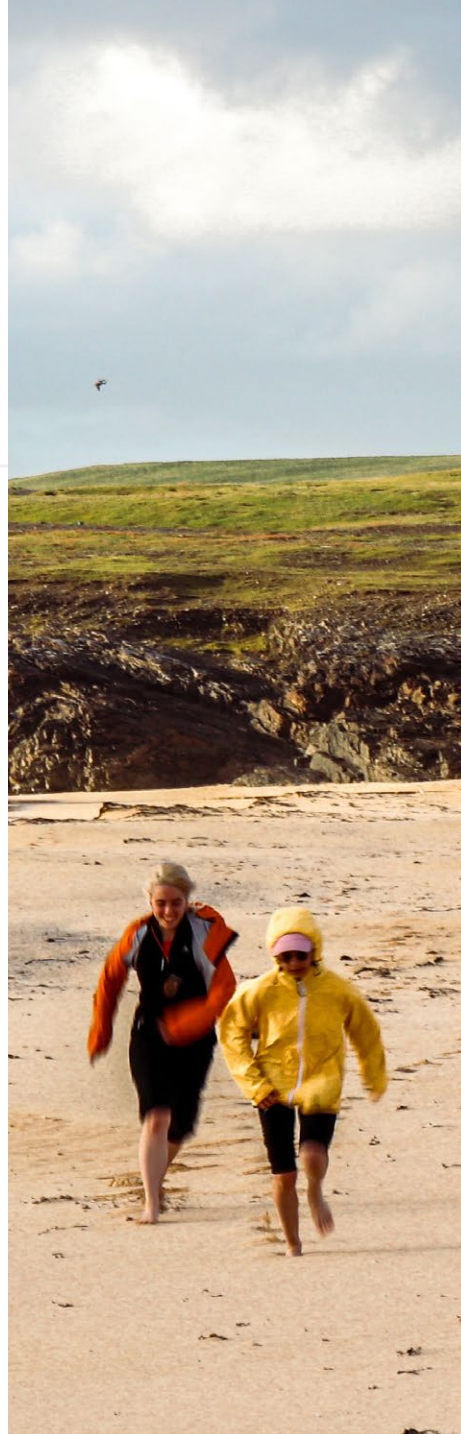


Introduction

Our Programmes

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WHAT DID WE DO IN 2024?

Throughout 2024, 284 young people acquired and developed skills via one or more of British Exploring Society's programmes:

→ **Expedition Workshops (153 participants)**

Fun and engaging half-day workshops where participants had the opportunity to develop their communication and decision-making skills under pressure, whilst learning about what expeditions entail and the benefits of taking part.

→ **Archive Workshops (33 participants)**

Sessions enabling Young Explorers to explore our archives and learn about the changes and continuities in our programmes over the years, while gaining context for their own adventures.

→ **Residential Training (29 participants)**

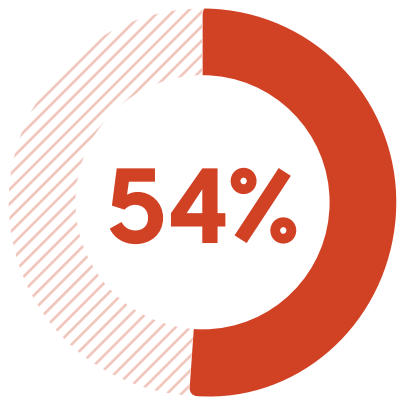
29 young people took part in one or more training events lasting 2-4 nights before withdrawing from their programme. Each training event is designed to offer standalone benefits and knowledge and where possible the young person will be given the chance to take part in another activity.

→ **Wilderness Expeditions (69 Young Explorers)**

2+ weeks in remote wildernesses of Iceland, Georgia, Scottish Highlands and the Scottish Islands, where we provided Young Explorers with the skills that enabled them to have the confidence and agency to shape their own expeditions, focusing on positive risk-taking, increased responsibility and overcoming challenges.



WHO ARE WE HELPING?



OF YOUNG EXPLORERS WHO JOINED AN EXPEDITION HAD A TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF LESS THAN £23,000 A YEAR

In order to deliver the right programmes to support the needs of our young people, we must understand their well-being, living conditions and financial situation.

Young people applying to our programmes* are asked for details of their socio-economic circumstances, including through our Equal Opportunities form.

Disability and/or long-term health conditions

37% of Young Explorers declared that they had a disability or long-term health condition. This is a 14% increase from the previous year.

A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term negative effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

The effect of an impairment is long-term if it has lasted for at least 12 months or is likely to do so.

Often, impairment refers to the actual condition, while a disability is the restriction of ability caused by the condition.

Young people often do not have a clear definition of conditions classified as a disability and may have a long-term health condition that is managed through daily medication which is not declared appropriately. Mental health conditions are often not considered as a disability by young people and have been previously under-reported.

While filling out our Supporting You forms significantly more (13 Young Explorers) disclosed mental health issues than were flagged in our Equal Opportunities forms.

Care-experienced participants

16 young people in care joined us on an expedition, predominantly through our partnership with the National Fostering Group.

Financial circumstances

54% of Young Explorers who joined an expedition had a total household income of less than £23,000 a year. The Office for National Statistics calculated average household income in the UK in 2023 as £34,500. Average household income for the poorest fifth of the population was £16,400.

41% → 54%

SINCE 2023 WE SAW A 13 PERCENT POINT INCREASE IN YOUNG EXPLORERS ON OUR LOWEST INCOME BAND.

This suggests we are reaching more young people who previously might not have considered joining a British Exploring Society programme due to perceived financial barriers.



Nature specific outdoor learning has measurable socio-economic academic, and well-being benefits...

Mann et Al 2022,
'Getting out of the classroom and into nature - a systematic review of nature specific outdoor learning on children's learning and development'

Living conditions and wider experience of deprivation

Deprivation extends beyond poverty to include poor educational outcomes, social isolation, poor healthcare and poor mental and physical well-being.

38% of our Young Explorers with English postcodes reside in areas that have levels of deprivation. 16% of the 38% reside in areas with some of the highest levels of deprivation in England.

British Exploring Society uses the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which combines measures across seven distinct aspects of deprivation. The tool is used by inputting the postcodes of each Young Explorer who resides in England into the IMD system, which calculates indices per post code.

The Index looks at a compound range of factors – including access to education, work and healthcare as well as economic profile.

The results may not be a full reflection of the demographic of our Young Explorers as it reflects where a young person resides and not whether they are in care or have other circumstances impacting on their experience as an adolescent. However, along with other data we analyse, it helps create a more accurate profile.

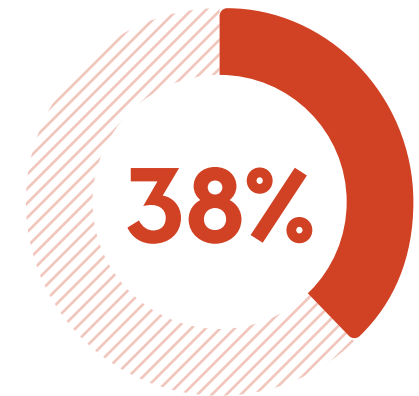
Volunteer Leader Diversity

2024 data indicates increases and decreases in under-represented groups among our Leaders, compared to the past two expedition seasons.

However, the overall decrease in Leader numbers in 2024 compared to that in 2022 and 2023 respectively may slightly skew the data set.

There is an increase in the percentage of Leaders who identify as being of (non-white) Ethnic Minority by 9% overall since 2021.

Leaders reporting a disability decreased in 2024, by a factor of 14.27% – the lowest figure reported between 2021 and 2024. In reporting Gender, those who identify as Male increased by 10.59%. 2024 had our highest reported percentage of male Leaders in the time period.



38% OF OUR YOUNG EXPLORERS WITH ENGLISH POST CODES, RESIDE IN AREAS THAT HAVE LEVELS OF DEPRIVATION



EXPEDITION & ARCHIVE WORKSHOPS

Made possible by the Hartz Family Foundation



Expedition Workshops have led to some great conversations with young people who may not have previously considered leaving their towns. let alone undertaking an expedition before.”

Tara Geoghegan,
Senior Skills Development
Coordinator

Expedition Workshops

These workshops take young people through a day-in-the-life on one of our expedition programmes.

They aim to dispel myths about fitness, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration as well as to provide fun and learning in an exciting context, as we do on our programmes.

Finding a way to measure the outcomes of Expedition Workshops had been a goal for us and in 2024 we introduced a '2-minute My Compass' – a tool consistent with our My Compass outcomes tool for Expeditions (see page 32) but fit to be used during a 2.5 hour workshop.

The tool was only used once in the 2023/24 financial year which does not give us enough data to report on the outcomes. We will continue to use the '2-minute My Compass' in the next season to measure the outcomes of this programme.

Archive Workshops

After a successful pilot of our pre-expedition Archive Workshop last spring we were able to host our second in-person Archive Workshop.

This year it was open to participants from all programmes, with members of the Hartz Islands, Pinnacle Wild Leadership programme and Dangoor Next Generation Iceland in attendance.

The aim of the workshop was to engage our newest Members and ensure they felt a part of and able to contribute to our community and heritage.

In addition to the pre-departure Archive Workshop, we also held a session at our Explorer Celebrations event giving our new Members who had just returned from expedition an insight into our past and how their expedition has contributed to our archive.





Introduction

Our Programmes

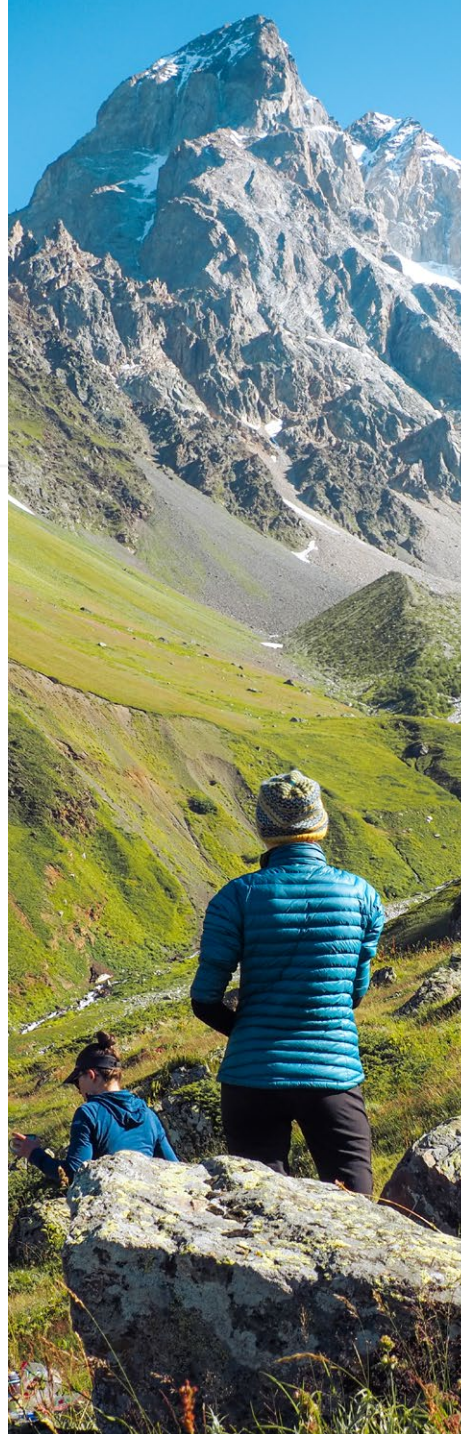
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Up to

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SCHOOL WEEKS-
WORTH OF ADVENTURE,
CHALLENGE AND
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.



THE YOUNG EXPLORER'S JOURNEY

Our expedition programmes are intentionally designed to be intensive and demanding to ensure we give Young Explorers the best opportunity to learn new skills, practise behaviours and develop positive relationships.

We also understand that joining one of our expeditions is often a big step for many young people.

Our 17-step Young Explorers Journey (illustrated over the next few pages) is a person-centred and enabling approach which seeks to make every young person feel valued and supported throughout our programmes and beyond.

From pre-programme application support to post-expedition follow-up, our dedicated Young People team works closely with each individual young person every step of the way to make sure they receive the necessary support and encouragement they need so they are ready to fully participate.

From start to finish the Young Explorer's Journey equates to several school weeks worth of additional Adventure, Challenge and Personal Development for each Young Explorer:

- **Hartz Scottish Highlands:**
19 school weeks
- **Hartz Scottish Islands:**
20 school weeks
- **Pinnacle Wild Leadership**
- Georgia: 26 school weeks
- **Dangoor Next Generation**
- Iceland: 12 school weeks



**CLICK TO WATCH A
3- MINUTE VIDEO WALK
THROUGH OF THE YOUNG
EXPLORER'S JOURNEY**



01

Application

The Young Explorer finds out about the opportunity and fills in the online application form.



02

The Young Explorer Chat

The Young Explorer has an initial conversation with the Young People Team; an opportunity for us to get to know each other and answer questions. For some, it's the first time they've ever spoken to a stranger on the phone.



03

Supporting Documents

The Young Explorer provides us with important additional information which helps give a better sense of how we can support them on their journey. This includes the "Supporting You" (medical) Form, Character Reference, and Household Income declaration which helps us to give the young person a means tested fundraising target.



06

Fundraising

The Young Explorer puts their ideas into action and starts fundraising. Fundraising activities could include raffles, bake sales, part-time jobs and/or sponsored challenges.



07

Kit List and Support Chats

The Young Explorer begins sourcing personal kit for their expedition and has regular check-in support chats with the Young People Team.



05

Fundraising Chat

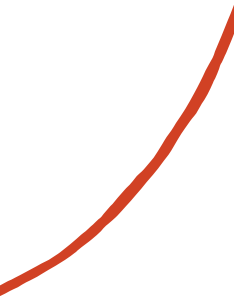
The Young Explorer has a follow up phone call with the Young People Team to brainstorm ideas for fundraising and where they may need support in their preparation.



04

Confirming Their Place

The Young Explorer officially accepts their place on the programme and their means-tested fundraising target. They make their first fundraising contribution, and their parent/guardian provides consent for them to participate.



08

Induction Weekend (UK and overseas programmes)

The Young Explorer attends their induction weekend, where they meet their Fire and Leaders in person for the first time.



09

Medical 1-1

The Young Explorer has a 1-1 meeting with the expedition Medical Leader to discuss their medical history and what support they may or may not need on expedition.



10

Fitness and Mental Health

The Young Explorer receives their fitness and well-being pack and begins taking steps to mentally and physically prepare for life on expedition.



11

Travel Essentials

The Young Explorer takes the necessary steps to ensure they can travel. Depending on the expedition, this can include a passport, a visa, and vaccinations.



12

Training Expedition (overseas programmes)

The Young Explorer attends the training expedition in the UK, where over four days they will get an idea of what life will be like on expedition.



13

Final Preparations and Support Calls

The Young Explorer finalises their kit, fundraising and travel essentials, supported by regular follow up calls with the Young People Team.



15

'Back to reality' and Reflection

Upon returning home, the Young Explorer returns to their 'normal' life and reflects on their experience. They are invited to write Real Life Stories for British Exploring Society.



14

Expedition

The Young Explorer departs for their expedition either by train to Scotland or from a London airport. For some, this will be the first time they travel significantly far from home.



17

Find Your Path

With their Young Explorer journey complete, they go out into the world better equipped to make lasting positive decisions for themselves, their community, and the environment. As life-long Members, they will always be a part of British Exploring Society.



16

End of Programme – Explorer Celebrations

Three months after returning, the Young Explorer attends their end of programme celebration event and is reunited for the day with their Fire and Leaders. They recognise and reflect together on how the expedition experience has changed their day-to-day life, and what they plan to do next. They are also welcomed as Members British Exploring Society.





Introduction

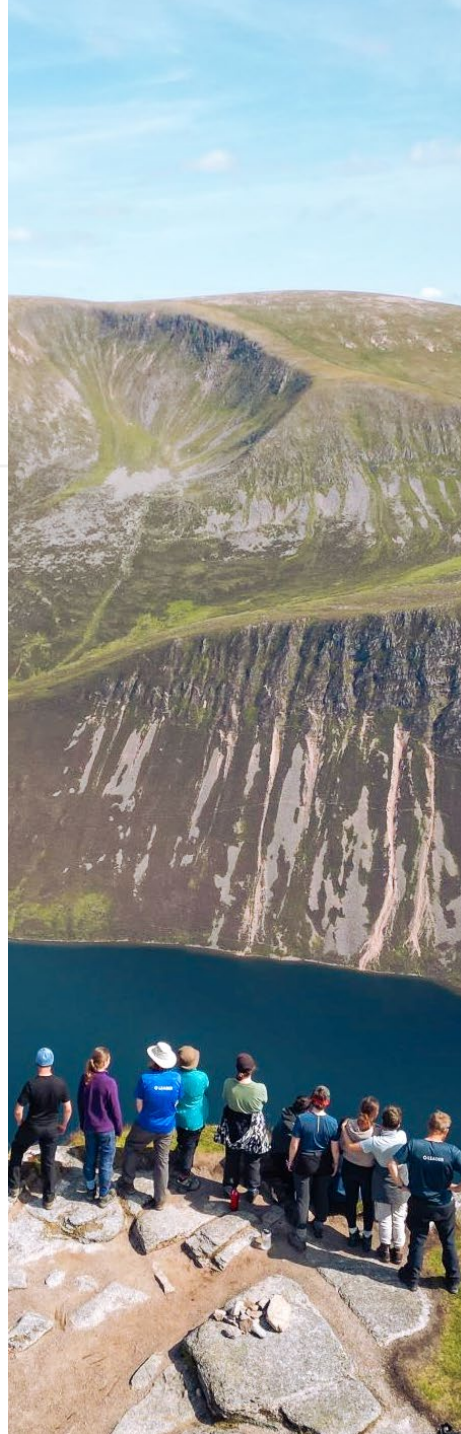
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TAKE ME TO
PAGE 5

FOR A QUICK REMINDER
OF OUR APPROACH
TO DESIGNING
PROGRAMMES,
HEAD TO PAGE 5



A JOURNEY OF PROFOUND CHANGE

Extended time away is essential for deep and lasting transformation. True behavioural change requires repetition, and real personal transformation involves reflection, challenge, and adaptation - all of which take time.

On our expeditions, Young Explorers are away from their everyday stresses and familiar surroundings for several weeks. This gives them the time to recognise and break ingrained patterns, foster new perspectives, and redefine their identity.

Whilst away, Young Explorers encounter varied challenges that require resilience, adaptability and problem solving. They are given the time to practise and master these new skills and behaviours and reach 'breakthrough' moments.

In the supportive environments of their Fires (teams), they form deeper bonds, learn conflict resolution, develop trust, and build the confidence needed to sustain their growth upon returning home – they 'Find Their Fire'.



Programme:

HARTZ HIGHLANDS

Made possible by the Hartz Family Foundation

25

YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN INDUCTION AT BARNSWOOD SCOUT CAMP, MACCLESFIELD AND 21 WENT ON TO A 2-WEEK EXPEDITION IN THE CAIRNGORMS



A UK-based expedition programme with 1 phase of advance training, for young people ready for their first wilderness expedition experience, and/or who for a number of reasons would rather explore the wilderness in the UK.

- **Location:**
Perthshire
- **Duration:**
2 weeks
- **Basecamp Thomas:**
Atholl Estates, Glen Bruar
- **Chief Leader:**
Susannah Cass (Les Morgan Leader of the Year for 2024)
- **Deputy Chief Leader:**
Nick Colwill
- **Number of Leaders:**
13
- **Number of Young Explorers:**
21
- **Fires:**
3 Fires - 'Lochan', 'Scots on Fire' and 'Mountain Hares'

21 Young Explorers joined the expedition at Edinburgh Waverley Station and were transported by coach to Calvine off the A9 before hiking to Basecamp Thomas.

The weather was favourable, and Young Explorers enjoyed exploring the wild area, recording wildlife, completing surveys for the FreshWater Watch citizen science project, learning navigation and camp craft, and summiting a number of Corbetts and Munros.

The three Fires spent one night and most of a day in Basecamp Thomas completing in-country training, before spreading out onto individual journeys, wild camping for 11 nights.

Supplies and provisioning ran smoothly and the Basecamp Manager was able to generate all required electricity through a solar power system rather than using a petrol generator, reducing noise and carbon emissions.

Fires returned to basecamp for a final celebration night, before an early morning walk out via the Falls of Bruar to meet the return coach to Edinburgh.



Programme:

HARTZ ISLANDS

Made possible and inspired by the Hartz Family Foundation

23

YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN INDUCTION IN A TRAINING WEEK ON DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK AND 17 WENT ON TO COMPLETE A 3 WEEK EXPEDITION IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES



A UK-based expedition programme in a remote part of Scotland offering physical and emotional challenges.

- **Location:**
The Outer Hebrides
- **Duration:**
3 weeks
- **Basecamp Hartz:**
Lews Castle, Stornaway, then mobile
- **Chief Leader:**
Graham Johnston
- **Deputy Chief Leader:**
Susannah Cass
- **Number of Leaders:**
11
- **Number of Young Explorers:**
17
- **Fires:**
2 Fires - 'The Bog Clan' and 'Pirates of the Hebrides'

Our first expedition that visited several Scottish Islands.

The main party set out by bus from Glasgow to a campsite at Ullapool, sailing the next day to Stornaway on the Isle of Lewis.

During the three weeks, Young Explorers travelled across Lewis and Harris, Berneray, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, and Barra. The expedition concluded by returning to the mainland at Mallaig, followed by an overnight camp at Arisaig beach and a bus back to Glasgow.

Young Explorers met a Bumblebee specialist from Species on the Edge and learned more about their work and the status of bumblebees in the UK. The expedition was given 12 sapling trees to plant by Lews Castle staff who also shared their knowledge of local flora and fungi.

The expedition experienced highly unfavourable weather, with heavy rain and wind that was unseasonable even for western Scotland.

The weather caused some damage to equipment, including tents, and it was very difficult to keep sleeping bags dry.

The weather conditions made knowledge activities and media work hard to accomplish due to the impact of heavy rain and wind on visibility and equipment. However, the Leaders and Young Explorers coped admirably and took as many opportunities as possible to learn from the unique setting.



Hartz Islands saw British Exploring Society's first ever mobile basecamp in the UK"



Programme:

DANGOOR NEXT GENERATION ICELAND

Made possible by British Exploring Society's relationship with its most transformational donor – The Exilarch's Foundation

28

YOUNG PEOPLE TOOK PART IN A TRAINING WEEK ON DARTMOOR, AND 16 WENT ON TO A 3-WEEK EXPEDITION



An expedition programme for young people willing to take on 2-stage UK training and an extended period in the wilderness at the edge of the Arctic Circle.

- **Location:**
Iceland
- **Duration:**
3 weeks
- **Basecamp Dangoor:**
Svartakot Farm,
North East Iceland
- **Chief Leader:**
Daniel Mazhindu
- **Deputy Chief Leader:**
Tony Harpur
- **Number of Leaders:**
14
- **Number of Young Explorers:**
16
- **Fires:**
2 Fires - 'Arctic Foxes' and 'Le Puffin'

During the 3-week expedition, the two Fires embarked on an exciting journey, trekking an impressive 120 to 150 kilometres - spending only the first and last nights at Basecamp Dangoor rather than returning after short tours.

This maximised their time wild camping and gave the Fires the opportunity to practice effective planning of rations and resources.

Remaining in the field for an extended period enabled the Young Explorers to travel further and see more of the unique geography of Iceland, and to experience an immersive experience while remaining in safe reach of assistance had it been needed.

They explored the stunning landscapes of Aldeyjarfoss waterfall, Sellandjafjall Mountain, and the Askja volcano with its surrounding lava fields. They also participated in valuable knowledge activities, such as water sampling, which enhanced their understanding of the environment.



We explored Askja volcano in Iceland - NASA uses the volcano's crater to train its lunar astronauts because its terrain so closely resembles the moon."



This shot was taken by my fellow Young Explorer, Kacper”

Ellie,
Young Explorer

Programme:

PINNACLE WILD LEADERSHIP GEORGIA

Made possible with the support, guidance and inspiration of the Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement

Our most stretching programme – designed to help 18+ young adults develop as ethical leaders and to understand what leadership means in the context of environmental sustainability and the great outdoors. The programme included 2 UK training events, a UK expedition and then a 4-week overseas expedition. Applicants went through a 2-stage application process for selection.

- **Location:**
Georgia
- **Duration:**
4 weeks
- **Basecamp Glen:**
Caucasus Mountains
- **Chief Leader:**
James Dyer
- **Deputy Chief Leader:**
Mark Downey
- **Number of Leaders:**
9
- **Number of Young Explorers:**
15
- **Fires:**
2 Fires - ‘Ushba’ and ‘Kajji’

Georgia offers high-quality long-distance trek routes and mountain locations.

The valley is surrounded by high mountains in all directions with a number of access routes into further valleys and up onto the alpine terrain above. We operated from Basecamp Glen at 1600m up to 3300m at the edges of the main glacial areas of the Caucasus.

The Fires worked together to plan tours, undertaking trekking-based activity in this mountainous region, drawing on logistics from Basecamp Glen, undertaking knowledge-based projects and furthering their understanding and practice of leadership, in line with the programme aims.

The Fires explored deep into the Dolra valley to the north and along the east and western flanks of the Caucasus mountains from Basecamp Glen, climbing and trekking through alpine meadows, loose scree paths,

15

YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE UK EXPEDITION ON DARTMOOR BEFORE PROCEEDING TO FULL EXPEDITION IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS

up into glacial lakes and the glaciers themselves, ascending to over 3500m to gain an understanding of the area and to practice and develop their emerging leadership.

Basecamp Glen kept the Young Explorer supplied with enough nuts, oats, buckwheat and dehydrated meals to support their endeavours, and ensuring that they have plenty of fresh menus when they return between phases. However, Young Explorer were creative with their rations and produced their own lines in honey doughnuts, drop scones and flapjacks.

The Young Explorers practiced their leadership in the context of this wild alpine landscape and left with insight, reflection and actions that will help them develop as leaders of the future and start working at implementing themselves as these leaders across their lives, industries and futures.



“For our end of programme celebration we met other Young Explorers who had been on expeditions throughout British Exploring Society’s 92 years of history”

Naffie,
Young Explorer



Sunny Elvy (left) and Ed Bussey (right)

NEXT STEPS



YOU CAN WATCH A HIGHLIGHT VIDEO OF THE 2024 SEASON THAT WAS SHARED AT THE EVENT HERE

Explorer Celebrations

In October 2024 our Young Explorers and Leaders joined us at our Explorer Celebrations event in London.

During the day we held reflection sessions where Young Explorers and Leaders looked back on their experience and how it has already begun to impact them and their lives back home, as well as career-focused workshop sessions that helped them begin to think about what they might go on to do next.

In the evening invited guests from our wider community joined us for the Young Explorers’ presentations and our annual Leader and Young Explorer of the Year Award ceremony. The awards were presented by Members Ed Bussey (Alaska 1985) and Sunny Elvy (Scotland 2021 & Yukon 2023).

Young Explorers who took part in an Expedition Programme during the year were awarded lifetime Membership of British Exploring

Society, granting access to a global network of fellow Members as well as the opportunity to attend events and become more involved.

Coming together at Explorer Celebrations to celebrate our Young Explorers and Leaders is made possible thanks to the generosity of Rahul Moodgal.

Find Your Path

During the first year after completing their expedition programme with us, our newest Members receive a series of six email newsletters – Find Your Path. Centred around our core values of Courage, Self-Belief, Challenge and Community, these newsletters are designed to engage and guide our young people to reflect further on their expedition experiences. The newsletters also offer information, support and inspiration to help our young people embed the skills they have learnt, communicate their achievements and continue their personal development journey.



OUR 2024 YOUNG EXPLORERS AWARDS

Dan's biggest act of kindness came during the expedition on the day we were summiting Askja Volcano. Before we even asked the group, Dan selflessly volunteered to stay behind at camp with another Young Explorer who could not summit, despite the fact that Dan was so looking forward to it himself."

Danyal's Fire Leaders

The Les Morgan Memorial Award

With thanks to Judi Morgan for supporting this award

The Les Morgan Memorial Award is presented annually to a Young Explorer who has shown exceptional initiative or leadership in adverse circumstances on expedition. For this award, nominations can only be made by our Chief Leaders, in consultation with their expedition leadership team.

The Moodgal Inspiration Award

The Moodgal Inspiration Award is presented annually to a Young Explorer who through their kindness or generosity to others, or through their fundraising efforts, have empowered themselves and inspired and helped others. Nominations for this award can be made by Young Explorers, Leaders, British Exploring Society's team and representatives from our partner organisations.



Danyal,
Dangoor Next Generation Iceland

The Les Morgan Memorial Award winner

"His infectious enthusiasm kept morale high, and his efforts inspired the entire group to stay focused and work together. Danyal's contributions were essential to the success of the expedition..."



Rahim,
Hartz Highlands

The Moodgal Inspiration Award winner

"We were a Fire from all different backgrounds with very different life experiences and we got on so well and Rahim played a big role in that..."



OUR 2024 LEADER AWARDS

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award

With thanks to Ian & Janet Sinclair for supporting this award

The Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award in memory of Jean Sinclair is designed to recognise and reward emerging talent, or to identify new, additional or more senior leadership actions on the part of a Leader who may have worked with us for some time.

The Les Morgan Memorial Award

With thanks to Frances Morgan for supporting this award

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award is to identify and celebrate consistent excellence in any area of Leadership, or to recognise an individual who has supported and helped develop their fellow Leaders, providing guidance and direction for them as well as for Young Explorers in preparation for and throughout their expedition experiences.



Alex Donaldson,
Social Leader Hartz Islands

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award winner

"His positive energy, patience, and compassion made a lasting impact on both the Young Explorers and his fellow Leaders, who were inspired by his natural ability to connect with and uplift those around him..."



Jude Kriwald,
Basecamp Manager Hartz Highlands

Watson Emerging Leader of the Year Award winner

"His positive attitude and genuine kindness towards everyone – Leaders and Young Explorers alike – set the tone for a welcoming and supportive base camp..."



Susannah Cass,
Chief Leader Hartz Highlands &
Deputy Chief Leader Hartz Islands

The Les Morgan Leader of the Year Award winner

"She always upheld the spirit and values of British Exploring Society, gently bringing the team back to them during discussions about how to manage challenging situations..."



Introduction

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OUR IMPACT

Each year we are helping young people to:

- **Make positive independent changes**
- **Develop resilience, determination and motivation**
- **Form supportive relationships, contributing socially**
- **Become curious and clear about their place in the world**

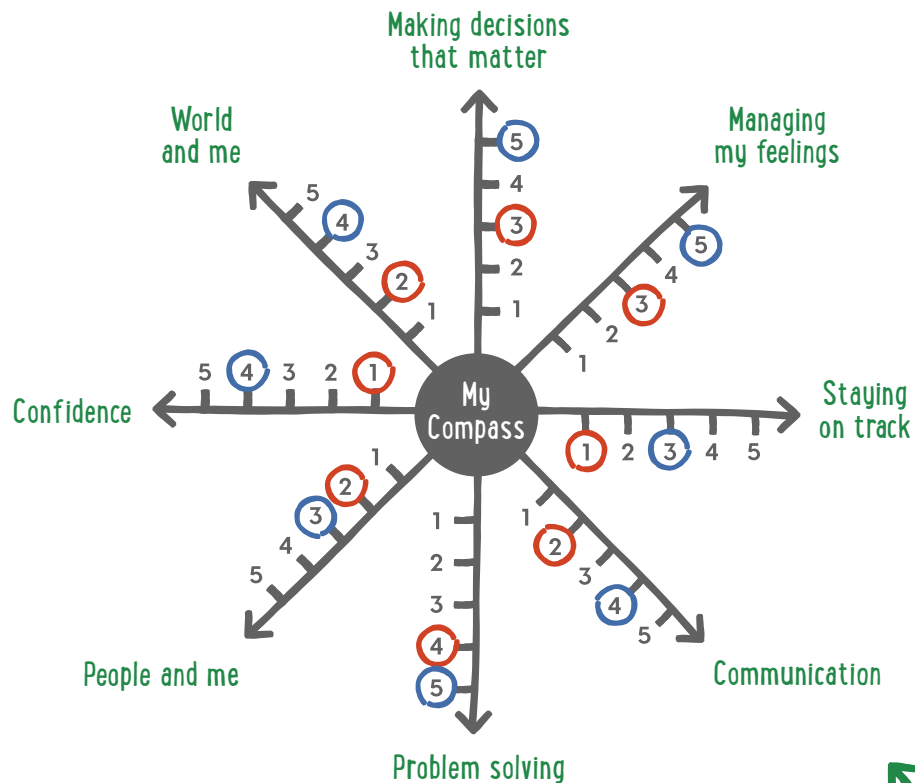
We use several tools to collect qualitative and quantitative data from across our programmes that help us establish and demonstrate the changes in young people who have taken part.

- **My Compass**
- **The Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale**
- **Young Explorer post-expedition survey**
- **General feedback, personal testimonies and quotes**



MY COMPASS

Talking as well as walking – guided goal setting with My Compass.



○ Start of the expedition
 ○ End of the expedition

This is an example of how a Young Explorer would fill out My Compass

How does it work?

The My Compass tool is completed during training, at the start of the expedition, in the middle of the expedition and at the end of the expedition.

It is based on 5 steps. A '5' means they are already really skilled and '1' means they think they are not very skilled in a particular area, at that time. It helps guide reflective conversation with young people, encouraging them to think about what they hope to learn and how with us and to consider any areas of their own skills or personal qualities that they aim to build on.

Through those reflecting conversations, Young Explorers develop confidence, practice and learn. They tend to judge themselves much more robustly by the end of a programme. My Compass outcomes indicate the success of that learning process.

The greatest quantitative average area of growth in 2024 is 'People and Me'.

'Confidence' and 'Making decisions that matter' then follow as the joint second greatest area of improvement.

On analysis of comparative year on year data (as displayed in the next page), the three greatest points of average growth this year have now remained the highest points of average growth for two years consecutively. Equally, the lowest growth interval has remained consistent for the same period (staying on track). This consistent data set could point to a better understanding of the tool, and a more standardised experience across expeditions.



We can see Significant and Outstanding self-recognised increases across all expeditions, with the largest increase in The World and Me, followed by People and Me, and Managing my Feelings.

My Compass in 2024 - The Intervals

All expeditions	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feelings	Staying on track	Communication	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Average start	3.21	3.23	3.41	3.29	3.32	3.04	3.34	3.59
Average end	4.06	3.96	3.65	4.10	4.08	4.02	4.19	4.06
Interval	0.85	0.73	0.24	0.82	0.76	0.99	0.85	0.47

Previous years for comparison

All expeditions	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feelings	Staying on track	Communication	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Interval 2023	0.90	0.86	0.67	0.83	0.79	0.98	1.00	0.74
Interval 2022	0.75	0.48	0.70	0.70	0.64	0.60	0.72	0.67
Interval 2021	0.72	0.77	0.62	0.69	0.77	0.74	0.96	0.74
Interval 2019	1.02	1.04	0.98	0.99	0.80	1.16	1.01	1.28

My Compass in 2024 - Percentages

All expeditions	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feelings	Staying on track	Communication	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Decrease	2%	2%	6%	2%	4%	4%	1%	8%
No change	2%	29%	38%	31%	34%	28%	35%	25%
Increase	6%	46%	31%	43%	41%	33%	33%	35%
Significant increase	2%	18%	23%	21%	19%	28%	26%	22%
Outstanding increase	2%	6%	2%	3%	2%	7%	4%	10%

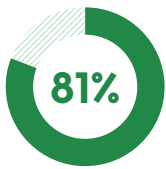
Pre-pandemic, in 2019, the average starting point sat at 3.26, just 0.04 off the 2024 average starting point. We can only speculate on the reasons for this consistent starting point decline, and whether it points to a wider fall in the opportunities for young people to understand their resilience, and a failing confidence in their own abilities, or whether alternatively there was a temporary post-pandemic "boost" in how Young

People view themselves, which is now levelling back out to pre-pandemic levels.

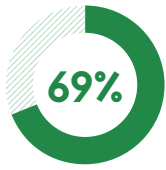
The table and graph above identify the number by percentage, of young people who showed different types of movement on their self-assessment scores ranging between small decreases to outstanding increases of two or more points.



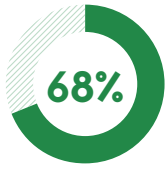
Young Explorers who completed My Compass:



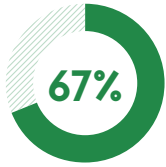
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT MATTER



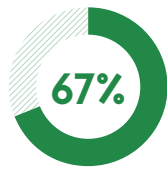
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO MANAGE THEIR FEELINGS



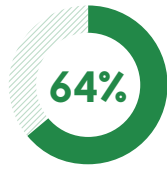
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR PEOPLE SKILLS



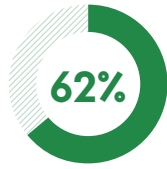
RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR COMMUNICATION SKILLS



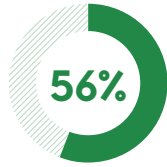
RECOGNISED AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR IMPACT ON THE WORLD



RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR CONFIDENCE



RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS



RECOGNISED AN INCREASE IN THEIR ABILITY TO STAY ON TRACK





OUR IMPACT ON MENTAL WELL-BEING

Reducing anxiety and coping better with problems

We also asked Young Explorers to reflect on their use of the SWEMWBS on expedition as part of their post expedition survey. Please see charts below and tables on the next page.

The support from my Leaders by creating activities that involve expressing emotions has encouraged me to be true to myself in the future and instead of hiding my feelings away, talk about them as that can make me feel alright in the end.

Naffie,
Young Explorer

Using the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale, by the end of their expeditions with us, Young Explorers scored above the cut off for 'high wellbeing' – putting them inside the top 15% for mental wellbeing in the UK population.

The Scale (SWEMWBS) relates to a person's psychological functioning, life satisfaction and ability to develop and maintain mutually benefitting relationships.

Psychological well-being includes the ability to maintain a sense of autonomy, self-acceptance, personal growth, purpose in life and self-esteem.

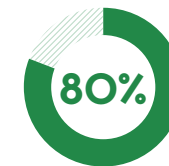
*The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS) is designed to assess mental well-being. It asks participants to score themselves on a scale of 1-5 against seven positively worded statements to measure both feelings and functioning related to mental well-being. On our expeditions, Young Explorers are asked to assess themselves at the start and end of their programme.

The tool was designed by NHS Health Scotland, University of Warwick and University of Edinburgh and is not meant to be used to identify people who have or probably have a mental illness.

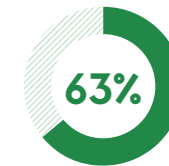
There was an average increase felt by Young Explorers across each area of the scale. The most prominent observations display that at the start of the expedition, Young Explorers were feeling anxious, and hadn't been dealing with their problems well. These were also the two biggest areas of positive change throughout our expeditions.

On average, at the end of the Expedition, Young Explorers felt most optimistic about the future and as though they had been able to make up their own mind about things.

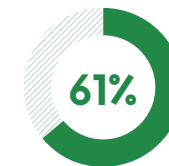
Young Explorers responded that the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale helped them:



RECOGNISE HOW THEY WERE FEELING ON EXPEDITION



IMPROVE THEIR WELLBEING ON EXPEDITION



DISCUSS THEIR WELLBEING AND FEELINGS ON EXPEDITION



Year on year, young people are rating their skills, competencies and well-being as weaker, or poorer, when they start with us.

Average SWEMWBS scores across all expeditions in 2024

	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Start of expedition	3.52	3.32	3.03	3.31	3.54	3.37	3.64
End of expedition	4.11	3.94	3.87	4.00	4.02	3.88	4.21
Interval	0.59	0.62	0.84	0.69	0.47	0.52	0.56

We're getting better at supporting mental well-being

	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Interval 2023	0.66	0.54	0.55	0.65	0.42	0.56	0.53
Interval 2022	0.30	0.68	0.46	0.49	0.51	0.67	0.45
Interval 2021	0.29	0.70	0.33	0.39	0.34	0.72	0.19

There continues to be a year on year growth in the overall average interval (growth) score between 2021 through to 2024. Young Explorers now record an overall average interval score of 0.61 compared to a 0.42 in 2021 (0.51 in 2022 and 0.56 in 2023).

The bigger picture – how do young people think they are doing in 2024?

2023 had an average starting point of 3.44, whereas the 2024 starting point averaged 3.30. In fact, the average starting point of My Compass has reduced year on year since 2021, falling from an average starting point of 3.50.

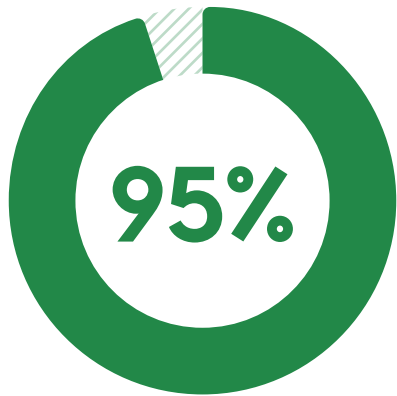
As with the My Compass tool, the overall average start point for the Mental Well-being Scale has dropped since 2021, when the overall average start point was 3.66. In 2024 this was 3.39 (3.45 in 2022 and 3.37 in 2023).

These drops in starting point are particularly note worthy in light of the systemic issues raised earlier in this report (see page 12). It is indicative of the challenges that young people face today.





BEYOND THE NUMBERS



OF YOUNG EXPLORERS 'AGREE' OR 'STRONGLY AGREE' THAT THEIR EXPEDITION HAS HELPED THEM GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURAL WORLD

Qualitative Evidence

Qualitative evidence aims to provide a better understanding of how we have delivered impact through first-hand experience, truthful reporting and asking Young Explorers to record their own personal perspective. It creates the narrative that supports the numbers – our quantitative outcomes data.

With so many factors at play in the completion of self-assessments at any given time, data can only be considered alongside the contextual background of verbal/written narrative.

The process of collecting qualitative evidence benefits British Exploring Society and the Young Explorers who are involved. When a Young Explorer completes a programme, part of the after-programme support is to help them communicate their experience. Through the collecting of qualitative information, we give Young Explorers the opportunity to reflect on their experience and to put into words the difference it has made to them.

A Wild Future?

"I learnt a lot about glaciers and the threats they face. I also gained a deeper appreciation for the natural world by meeting more like-minded people who care about the planet, I felt less apathetic and more empowered to take action to save the planet."

– Young Explorer feedback

The responses to the 'Commitment to the Environment' section of the Post-Expedition Survey indicate that our expeditions have helped the majority of Young Explorers better understand the natural world around them and have also given them curiosity to continue their learning.

95% of Young Explorers 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that their expedition has helped them gain a better understanding of the natural world as well as that they are eager to continue learning about the natural world.

88% of Young Explorers 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that they feel able to share their knowledge of the natural world with others.

"Embarking on an expedition in the Outer Hebrides was transformative. The rugged landscapes, with their windswept cliffs and pristine beaches, offered a profound connection to nature. Encountering diverse wildlife, from elusive otters to majestic sea eagles, deepened my appreciation for the environment. Immersed in this breathtaking setting, I bonded with a remarkable group of people, each adding unique perspectives and insights. The challenges of the journey fostered personal growth, pushing me beyond my comfort zone and enhancing my resilience. Overall, it was a journey of discovery, both the wild beauty around me and of my own strength within."

– Young Explorer feedback



Young Explorer feedback from post expedition survey

Readers will already have encountered some Young Explorer feedback elsewhere in this report. Young Explorers are asked about how they felt after their expedition, what advice would they give to future Young Explorers and what they had learnt/gained from the experience;

"Being on expedition made me more aware of how resilient I am. It also gave me insight into the impact that being outdoors can have on even the most reluctant adventurer!"

"On my expedition the most valuable skill I learned was perseverance, to keep going in the face of loss and struggles, to always keep trying and pushing through despite what lies ahead."

"I think the most valuable piece of knowledge I gained was about myself. I found that I am capable of going on a big adventure like this, and not only cope, but have an amazing time! I gained loads of practical skills in terms of trekking and camping too. Overall, it was a massive confidence boost and helped me to believe in myself, both in terms of going on expeditions and in general life."

"I felt like I gained so much from the whole experience, from the training weekends to the travel to the expedition itself. Confidence, friends, fun, knowledge, self-awareness and a greater appreciation of the natural world. It has changed my goals in life and reminded me what is important while improving my mental health."

"Absolutely amazing, it was tough at times, but it has taught me a lot of valuable lessons that I could not have otherwise drawn myself, it has taught me to value myself so much better."

Expedition Workshops

Young people are asked after Expedition Workshops to provide feedback on what they have learned, what they enjoyed and what they would change from the workshop.

"I learnt how to make tough decisions with my group. [I enjoyed] working with my group and maps."

– Student, Ada National College for Digital Skills

"I learnt about skills [needed] in the Amazon rainforest. I enjoyed working together in a group."

– Student, Thetford College

Finding a way to measure the outcomes of Expedition Workshops had been a goal and in 2024 we introduced a '2-minute My Compass' – a tool consistent with our My Compass but fit to be used during a 2.5 hour workshop. The tool was only used once in the 2023/24 financial year – insufficient data to report on the outcomes. We will continue to use the '2-minute My Compass' in the next season to measure the outcomes of this programme.



OUR IMPACT OVER TIME

600

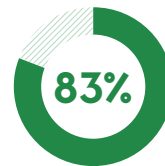
UNIQUE RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED FOR THE ANNUAL MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE, REPRESENTING EVERY DECADE OF BIRTH FROM THE 1930S TO THE 2000S.

Since 2023, we have sent an annual questionnaire to Members (previous expedition participants), to help us identify and demonstrate the difference, over extended periods of time, our programmes make.

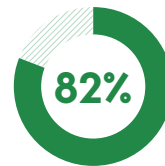
The questionnaire uses themes from our outcomes tool 'My Compass' and questions originally devised by Penn State University for their doctorate research paper 'The perceived long-term influence of youth expeditions on participants' lives' by Maria Jose Ramirez Canas (December 2019).

At the time of publication, we have a cumulative total of more than 600 unique responses – from the 4500 Members that were sent the questionnaire – representing every decade of birth from the 1930s to 2000s.

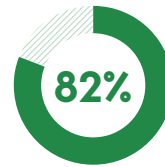
Members said their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their:



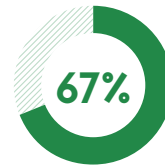
INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENT



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONFIDENCE, STAYING ON TRACK, MANAGING THEIR FEELINGS

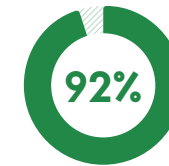


SKILLS – PROBLEM SOLVING, COMMUNICATION, MAKING DECISIONS THAT MATTER

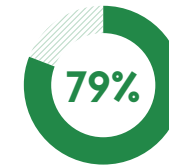


ATTITUDE TO VOLUNTEERING, COMMUNITY VALUE

Members also said:



THEIR EXPEDITION WAS ENJOYABLE AND MEANINGFUL



THEY AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT THEIR EXPEDITION CHANGED THE COURSE OF THEIR LIFE

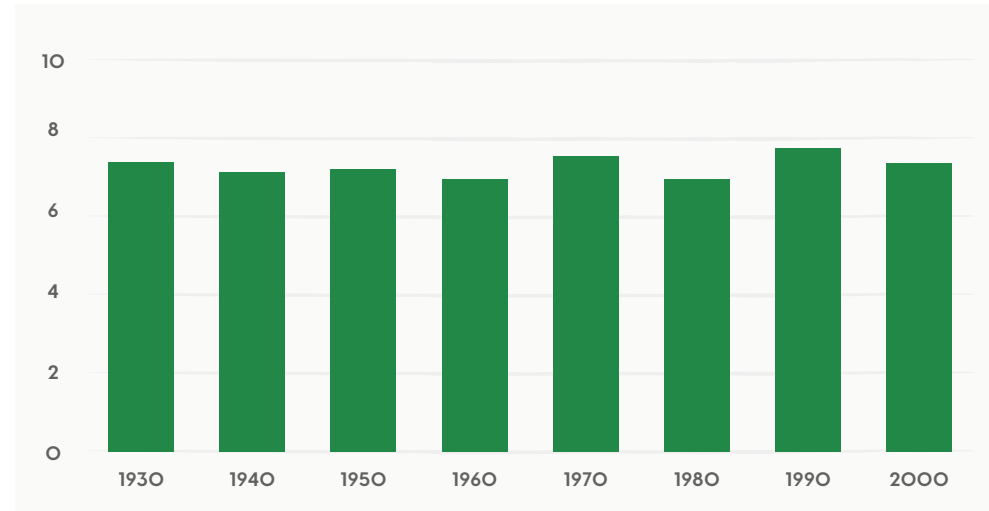


...the experiences are significant in influencing confidence, mental toughness, belief in self, motivation to succeed and ability to work as part of a team.”

P Allison et al
The University of Edinburgh,
Personal Development through expeditions (Using British Exploring Society expeditions as the research base).



Average impact score by decade



The average score reported by Members for the impact of their expedition* does not significantly change, irrespective of the decade of their birth.

Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary and non-incentivised. We're grateful to our Members for taking the time to respond and sharing their experiences with us. Thank you.

What we cannot yet measure

- The positive changes that Young Explorers go on to make in their lives and the world around them
- The benefits of the life-long community of support that we work to build and maintain
- The above-average economic and societal contribution of our Members at work, and as volunteers
- The social action and volunteering which participants undertake with us, and elsewhere.

*Where impact is measured by level of agreement with the statement 'my expedition with British Exploring Society changed the course of my life', using a scale of 1-10, where 1 is strongly disagree and 10 is strongly agree.



LEONARD SMITH

Member, British Exploring Society - East Greenland 1982



***“Incredibly, even though the British Exploring Society expedition I joined was over forty years ago, there aren’t many weeks go by when I don’t notice in myself the amazing impact for good that the adventure of being a Young Explorer has had in my life.*”**

I completely believe that being a part of something as exciting, challenging and demanding as an expedition gave me positive and life changing skills. I see these in myself and I so often recall my expedition which I’m convinced grew qualities in me such as resilience, perseverance, compassion and team work. Through my career as a business owner and employer these qualities have emboldened and enriched my day-to-day decision making and my relationships as well as strengthening my planning and strategy skills.

The awesome and breathtaking setting of a remote and pristine wild place, its serenity, ferocity and yet its fragility impacted me and everyone I’ve shared my expedition stories with. I would say that exploring and camping in Greenland as an eighteen year old ignited my strong desire and daily passion to protect, repair and nurture our natural world whilst also encouraging us all to share in the wonder of it.

Reflecting, yes, the unbelievable scenery and the adventurous expedition environment certainly inspired me, but it was also the encouragement and example of our Leaders that had a big effect on me. Being able to live alongside and see up close how a person with experience of adventuring tackles challenges and setbacks, yet keeps positive and aware of the bigger picture compels me to try and be such an example and help to young people today.”

Leonard on British Exploring Society’s East Greenland expedition, 1982





WHAT'S NEXT?



There is no doubt in my mind that these memories will remain etched in my memory, and I will always remember how they helped me forget the tragedies of my past and boosted my self-confidence.

Rahim,
Young Explorer

After 92 years, a world war and a pandemic, British Exploring Society is now preparing to help young people with one of their greatest challenges – an epidemic in poor mental health and low resilience. Understanding how to help unlock self-belief is more critical than ever.

As young people increasingly absent themselves from school, socialising and the workplace, so they are also dropping out of our programmes before they can experience the expeditions which deliver the full benefit of our approach.

We cannot help young people who aren't with us. So, we must adapt again.

We were the original organisation in the UK to run developmental expeditions in wild places with young people and it is important to us that we do not undermine the value of our remarkable expedition model. It has been in place and defining lives for 92 years.

But focusing on delivering what makes the most impact for young people is what drives us.

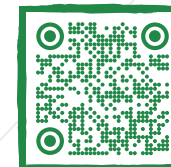
As we did during COVID, we're tackling a paradigm shift in 2025.

We're trialling a two part, stepped path from first experiences to full participation on an expedition in a remote location so that we can:

- Reach more young people to help them deal with anxiety, to support the development of resilience and good mental wellbeing;
- Give young people more graduated opportunities to increase confidence and reduce anxiety levels on their journeys to adventure;
- Consult and work more closely with young people, Leaders and partners in our planning to make sure that our programmes to develop resilience match the capacity of young people to embrace challenge;

- Provide more opportunities for engagement between Leaders and Young People to support the CPD many of our leaders say they would welcome;
- Prepare a roster of overseas expeditions including new destinations for 2026 and onwards. Our task is to responsibly, sustainably provide expeditions to locations which deliver transformative youth development in an increasingly challenging geopolitical context.

So, what is the new paradigm? We're calling it **'A New Kind of Adventure'**.



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR STEPPED PROGRAMME MODEL AS PART OF 'A NEW KIND OF ADVENTURE'



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

The professionals who have always volunteered their time and skills and who take on considerable responsibility to lead our programmes provide hundreds of hours of intensive and high quality engagement to young people. Our work would not be possible without them.

Introduction

Our Programmes

Our Impact

Financials

Our Charitable Object is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

The trustees have taken due note of their responsibilities under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. They are confident of the impact of British Exploring Society and the benefit to wider society through work in the following areas:

- 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 education through the development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding;

- The advancement of community development through the active promotion of volunteering and civic responsibility;
- The advancement of science through research, and independent research projects;
- The advancement of environmental protection through the promotion and better understanding of sustainable development and biodiversity.

Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory regulation, fundraising and financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with.

The executive team is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance. The responsibility for all activities during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

As of the end of the financial year, the charity was employing 15 full-time and 3 part-time employees. Many volunteers offer their services regularly or on an ad hoc basis. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity.

Members of Council meet at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of sub-committee meetings. Individual Council members additionally give time to oversee specific areas of activity.



Council may appoint Advisors to Council with expertise of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association. Third party indemnity provision is in force at the time of approval of the report for the benefit of one or more directors. British Exploring Society has in place Trustees, Directors, and Officers Public Liability insurance.

Members of Council, listed on page 2, are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of Council are appointed at Council or at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company.

The Council may propose and appoint candidates. New members are recruited by formal application to a nominations sub-committee. Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council and is under annual review.

Approach to Managing Risk

The charity must manage risks to itself and to Leaders and young people on its programmes. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance.

An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Programme risk management

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and the Expeditions Manager, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing programmes and their associated risks. On expedition, this is delegated to Chief Leaders.

This includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs) which cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and Experts including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which a programme may be exposed.

SOPs are updated in the light of practical experience and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are subject to interrogation through desk-based research which considers environmental, political, and other risks.

British Exploring Society's Council and its Operations sub-committee are satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2023/4.

Financial Risk

Council mitigates financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee chaired by the Treasurer. Executive staff present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review before such information is submitted to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. Council Members have direct oversight of fundraising performance. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually.



Statement of responsibility in relation to fundraising

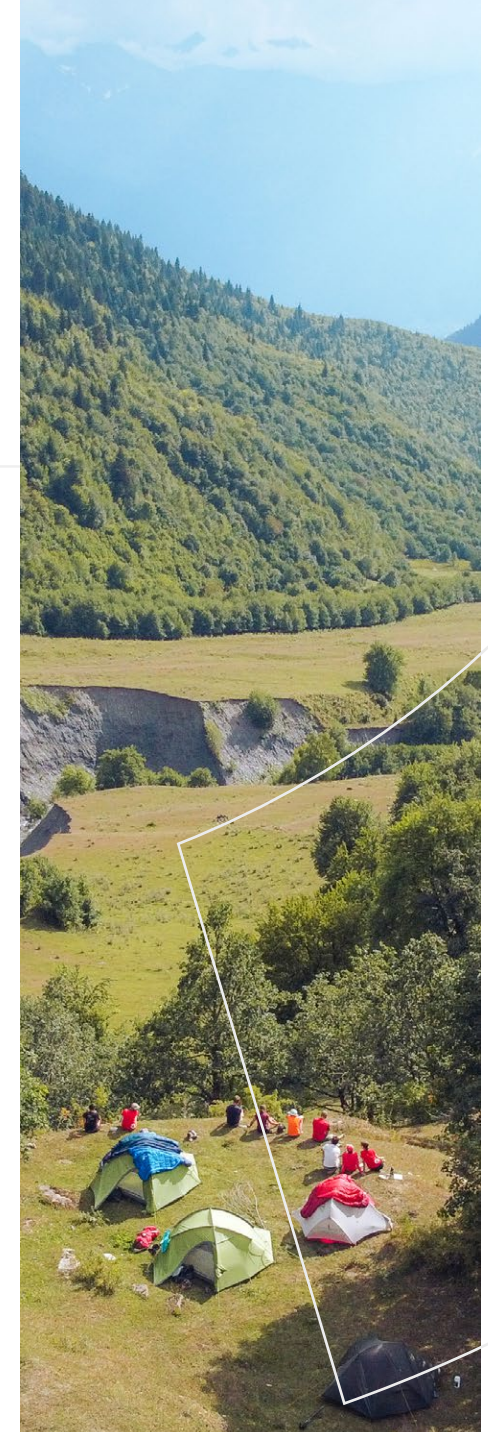
British Exploring Society takes its duties in relation to fundraising under Data Privacy and Protection regulation and per The Code of Fundraising Practice seriously. In addition to its own Ethical Fundraising Policy, it is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. The Code of Fundraising Practice outlines 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 raise funds via an in-house fundraising team and donations are received through the following channels: Charitable Trusts and Foundations, Corporates, Individuals and Events.

We received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities in the 2023/4 financial year. Finance Committee had no cause to review any non-compliance with any area of fund-raising activity.

We are registered with the regulatory body for fundraising in the UK, the Fundraising Regulator, and pay an annual levy to support its work. We adhere to the standards outlined in the regulator's Code of Fundraising Practise. We regularly review our fundraising activities to ensure they fully comply with the code, do not place an unreasonable intrusion on anyone's privacy or put them undue pressure on them to donate.

Our work brings us into contact with young people between the ages of 14 and 26, 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.





Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of Council are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the Independent Examiner

So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant information of which the company's Independent Examiner is unaware; and
- certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to ensure that the Independent Examiner is aware of that information.

Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on 19 June 2025 and signed on behalf of Council by;

Richard Kleiner
Treasurer

Lord Rees
Interim Chair of Trustees



FINANCIAL REVIEW

By Richard Kleiner, Treasurer

Incredibly, even though the British Exploring Society expedition I joined was over forty years ago, there aren't many weeks go by when I don't notice in myself the amazing impact for good that the adventure of being a young explorer has had in my life.

Leonard Smith,
Member

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 51.

2023/24 has been a year of challenges across the sector. For us, this culminated in a decision to revise and focus our programmes within the UK in 2024, returning to overseas activities following review towards the latter part of 2025. The process of review also led to some changes in our Council, or board. As part of the changes to trustees, I was appointed a new trustee in December 2024 and, at the same time, was appointed chair of the finance committee and as Treasurer.

In our fundraising we continue to tackle real challenges, and, as we indicated in our previous year's annual report, we are still not meeting every programme funding target we would like to. We welcome the prospect of a more robust future with the professionalism of a highly effective Development board, and with our focus on growing a pipeline of individuals, trusts and foundations to help us to meet the charity's aspirations.

We are also assisted in challenging times by thus far being able to control our programming with sufficient foresight to be able to manage our overall income.

As referred to previously, we took the decision in November 2024 to revise our approach and to reduce some of our activity in 2024/25.

This advance decision avoided disappointment to participants, unnecessary start-up costs, and reduces our financial commitments whilst we continue to develop our pipeline of supporters. We aim to more closely coordinate our fundraising and membership activities so that our community is better informed of our work and the means by which they can support us. A New Kind of Adventure has again focused the organisation on innovation - delivering better services whilst sustaining lean operations - and we will use this opportunity to ensure we are fit for purpose for the future, and to facilitate growth.

British Exploring Society generated £903,661 of income (2022/23: £1,219,900 Restated).

The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £ 1,173,985 (2022/23: £1,432,917 Restated).

There was a net deficit on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £270,325 (2022/23: £213,017), reflecting the decision to run two overseas expeditions during the year in line with our charitable object and the challenging fundraising environment. Our forecasts of the net deficit as we progressed through the year led us to take the decisions to reduce our overseas activity in 2024 and implement the reorganisation as discussed above.



The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2024 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page page 51 of these financial statements.

Carbon reporting for 2023/24

In our 10-year strategy A Wild Future we made a commitment to report on our greenhouse gas emissions, and to share our progress in becoming a more sustainable organization in our annual report.

Our overall carbon footprint which includes office costs and programmatic activities for 2023 has been calculated by Carbon Managers for us at 409 tonnes CO₂e.

We have purchased Pending Insurance Units to offset our greenhouse gas emissions for 2022. PIUs are carbon credits in mitigation of our carbon emissions. Units purchased will accumulate over time to offset emissions already incurred. Our PIUs will be available on the UK Land Carbon Registry for public scrutiny. We have sought high conservation/restoration value schemes of genuine value to landowners, with public access. We continue to work with ForestCarbon (www.forestcarbon.co.uk) at Hawkshaw on the Scottish Borders. They plant native broadleaves (Downy Birch, Oak, Aspen, Willow, Alder, Scots Pine, Rowan, Thorny Scrub) and support flood mitigation, improved water quality and wildlife. It has pedestrian access and the right to roam. We hope that the site will be of programmatic/knowledge value to us as it matures.

Going forward, we aim to deliver an average 5% per annum reduction in our principal source of emissions – flights – to deliver a 50% overall reduction in emissions from flights by 2032.

Investment Policy and Performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.





Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is implemented with other governance and financial controls, and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. 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 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.

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 2024 was £151,685 of which £124,046 are regarded as free reserves, after allowing for funds tied up in tangible fixed assets. The balance held as restricted and endowment funds as at 31st October 2024 was £141,372. As at 31 October 2024, free reserves stood at approximately 1.4 months' worth of average operating costs. Council has approved a budget for 2024/25, which reflects the revised programme for the current year.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The current economic conditions, particularly in relation to fundraising, have been reviewed and taken into consideration. Grants continue to be received, and plans have been put in place for future activities. The Trustees have also taken account of progress in the fundraising strategy, the ongoing loyalty of long-term supporters as well as donations received from new supporters. The charity continues to innovate and has shown the capacity to reorganise and focus on necessary operational changes and alterations to programme design. For these reasons The Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of British Exploring Society

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the period ending 31st October 2024

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Charity (and also its directors for the purposes of charity law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report was approved on 19 June 2025 and signed on behalf of Council by;

Shona Wardrop

Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.

Institute of Chartered
Accountants of Scotland

Chariot House Limited
Chartered Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Statement of financial activities



For the year ending 31st October 2024

Income	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Donations	2	514,271	249,762	371	764,403	800,628
Income from charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	3	-	127,838	-	127,838	403,051
Income from investments	4	10,967	-	-	10,967	11,467
Other income	5	453	-	-	453	4,754
Total incoming resources		525,691	377,600	371	903,661	1,219,900
Expenditure	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Expenditure on raising funds	6	178,690	-	-	178,690	150,797
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	424,186	571,109	-	995,295	1,282,120
Total expenditure		602,876	571,109	-	1,173,985	1,432,917
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		(77,186)	(193,509)	371	(270,325)	(213,017)
Transfer between funds		61,412	49,454	(11,958)	0	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(15,774)	(242,963)	(11,588)	(270,325)	(213,017)
Reconciliation of funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Total funds brought forward		167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382	776,399
Total funds carried forward	13	156,304	133,898	7,474	297,306	563,382

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet



As at 31st October 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Fixed Assets						
Tangible fixed assets	7	27,639	-	-	27,639	41,607
Total fixed assets		27,639	-	-	27,639	41,607
Current Assets						
Cash at bank and in hand		144,096	133,898	7,474	285,468	547,813
Debtors	8	26,896	-	-	26,896	73,962
Total current assets		170,992	133,898	7,474	312,364	621,775
Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(46,946)	-	-	(46,946)	(100,000)
Net current assets		124,046	133,898	7,474	265,418	521,775
Net assets		151,685	133,898	7,474	293,057	563,382
Charity Funds						
Endowment funds		-	-	7,474	7,474	19,062
Restricted income funds		-	133,898	-	133,898	376,861
Unrestricted income funds		151,685	-	-	151,685	167,459
Total charity funds	13	151,685	133,898	7,474	297,306	563,382

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 19 June 2025 and signed on behalf of Council by:


Richard Kleiner
Treasurer


Lord Rees
Interim Chair of Trustees

Statement of cash flows



For the year ending 31st October 2024

Cash flows from operating activities	Notes	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Net cash used in operating activities	14	(263,478)	(67,101)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest		10,967	11,467
Purchase of assets		(9,834)	(26,196)
Transfer of cash from investment			
Net cash flow by investing activities		1,133	(14,729)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(262,345)	(81,830)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		547,813	629,643
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		285,468	547,813

Notes to financial statements



Includes:

Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

British Exploring Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Expedition contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place.

Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place.

Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

95%

COST OF EXPEDITIONS

5%

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHARITY

1.4 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.5 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Expedition equipment between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis
- Office equipment and computers 25% straight line basis
- Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

Notes to financial statements



Includes (continued):

1.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.8 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.9 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes:

→ **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.

→ **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.10 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.11 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.12 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were no accruals or prepayments (2023: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2024 amount to £19,786 (2023: £19,207).

1.13 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.14 Going Concern

After appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The current economic conditions, particularly in relation to fundraising, have been reviewed and taken into consideration and governance arrangements strengthened to support the charity and its fundraising work.

Grants continue to be received, and plans put in place for future activities. The Trustees have taken account of progress in the fundraising strategy, the ongoing loyalty of long-term supporters as well as donations received from new supporters. The trustees are aware of the need to secure gifts each year to continue to operate.

The charity is focused on effectiveness, and repeatedly shown the capacity to innovate and reorganise in order to meet the needs of young people, and to operate prudently.

For these reasons, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

2. Income from donations	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Cash donations	514,271	249,762	371	764,403	800,628
Donated services	-	-	-	-	-
	514,271	249,762	371	764,403	800,628

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Cash donations	634,313	166,205	110	800,628
Donated services	-	-	-	-
	634,313	166,205	110	800,628

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	-	127,838	-	127,838	403,051
	-	127,838	-	127,838	403,051

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	36,252	366,799	-	403,051
	36,252	366,799	-	403,051

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Interest receivable on cash deposits	10,967	-	-	10,967	11,467
	10,967	-	-	10,967	11,467

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Interest receivable on cash deposits	11,467	-	-	11,467
	11,467	-	-	11,467

5. Other income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Miscellaneous receipts	453	-	-	453	4754
	453	-	-	453	4754

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Miscellaneous receipts	4754	-	-	4754
	4754	-	-	4754

Income has been restated from the prior year (reduced by £395,777 - notes 2) due to changes in how donated services are accounted for at the charity. The year-on-year complexities of quantifying these services have led to the decision by trustees to now include recognition of these services as part of the charity trustees' report.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

6. Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Cost of expeditions:					
Total expedition costs	147,540	219,736	-	367,276	640,687
Donated services	-	-	-	-	-
Salary cost*	393,160	332,763	-	725,923	700,450
Depreciation	5,192	-	-	5,192	15,107
Total cost of expeditions	545,892	552,499	-	1,098,391	1,356,244
Governance costs:					
Salary costs	38,206	-	-	38,206	36,866
Office costs	14,528	-	-	14,528	5,787
Independent Examiner fees	4,250	-	-	4,250	7,400
Depreciation	-	18,610	-	18,610	26,620
Total governance cost	56,984	18,610	-	75,594	76,673
Grants awarded to individuals	-	-	-	-	-
Total charitable activities	602,876	571,109	-	1,173,985	1,432,917

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

6. Charitable activities <i>(continued)</i>	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Restated Total 2023 (£)
Cost of expeditions:				
Total expedition costs	31,718	608,969	-	640,687
Donated services	-	-	-	-
Salary cost*	458,935	241,515	-	700,450
Depreciation	-	15,107	-	15,107
Total cost of expeditions	490,653	865,591	-	1,356,244
Governance costs:				
Salary costs	36,866	-	-	36,866
Office costs	5,787	-	-	5,787
Independent Examiner fees	7,400	-	-	7,400
Depreciation	26,620	-	-	26,620
Total governance cost	76,673	-	-	76,673
Grants awarded to individuals	-	-	-	-
Total charitable activities	567,326	865,591	-	1,432,917

Cost of Raising Funds

Total staff costs, includes all expenditure incurred to generate voluntary income.

This comprises staff costs relating to fundraising, which include salaries, employer's National Insurance contributions, and employer's pension contributions, along with associated support costs. The total cost of raising funds for the year was £178,690 (2022/23: £150,797).

Donated Services

Expenditure has been restated from the prior year (reduced by £395,777 - notes 6) due to changes in how donated services are accounted for at the charity. The year-on-year complexities of quantifying these services have led to the decision by trustees to now include recognition of these services as part of the charity trustees' report.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

7. Tangible Fixed Assets	Expedition Equipment (£)	Office Equipment & Computers (£)	Total (£)
Cost:			
At 1 November 2023	283,980	162,715	446,695
Additions	7,212	2,622	9,834
At 31 October 2024	291,192	165,337	456,529
Depreciation:			
At 1 November 2023	250,791	154,297	405,088
Provided in the year	18,610	5,192	23,802
At 31 October 2024	269,401	159,489	428,890
Net Book Value at 31 October 2024	21,791	5,848	27,639
Net Book Value at 31 October 2023	33,189	8,418	41,607

8. Debtors	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Other debtors	-	51,614
Prepayments & accrued income	26,896	22,348
	26,896	73,962

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Trade creditors	19,066	69,502
Other creditors	-	-
Expedition contributions in advance	-	-
Social Security	17,412	21,610
Accruals	10,468	8,888
	46,946	100,000

10. Deferred Income	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2024 expeditions		
Balance as at 1 November 2022	-	-
Amount released to income from charitable activities	-	-
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
	-	-

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

11. Staff Costs	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Staff wages and salaries	677,702	655,588
Social security cost	69,815	62,521
Other pension cost	19,786	19,207
	767,304	732,316

	2024 (No.)	2023 (No.)
	16	15
	3	3
Total number of Employees	19	18

One staff member received benefits above £60,000.

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension) was £60,000 or more was:

	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
£110,000 - £115,000	1	1

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefits in kind in the year.

No members of Council received expenses relating to travel and subsistence, and staff entertaining (2024: nil).

British Exploring Society considers its key management personnel comprise Council members and the Chief Executive Officer.

The total employment benefits paid to key management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £115,543 (2023: £115,543).

The charity paid £3,193.92 (2023: £3,293) for Trustees' indemnity insurance.

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

12. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2024 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	27,639	-	-	27,639
Debtors	26,896	-	-	26,896
Cash at bank and in hand	144,096	133,898	7,474	285,468
Creditors	(46,946)	-	-	(46,946)
	151,685	133,898	7,474	293,057

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	41,607	-	-	41,607
Debtors	73,962	-	-	73,962
Cash at bank and in hand	151,890	376,861	19,062	547,813
Creditors	(100,000)	-	-	(100,000)
	167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

13. Analysis of fund balances: Movement in funds	Brought Forward 01/11/2023 (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried Forward 31/10/2024 (£)
Unrestricted Funds:					
General fund	167,458	525,691	(602,876)	61,412	151,685
Total Unrestricted Funds	167,458	525,691	(602,876)	61,412	151,685
	Brought Forward (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried Forward (£)
Restricted Funds:					
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	197,945	-	(90,485)	(52,611)	54,849
The Exilarch's Foundation	-	120,000	(120,000)	-	-
The Band Trust	112,928	-	-	(112,928)	-
The Hartz Family Foundation	-	170,248	(170,248)	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	65,988	87,352	(190,376)	116,085	79,049
Total Restricted Funds	376,861	377,600	(571,109)	(49,454)	133,898
	Brought Forward (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfer (£)	Carried Forward (£)
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds:					
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,758	310	-	(11,958)	110
Alexander Eastwood Award	-	-	-	-	-
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,304	60	-	-	7,364
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	19,602	370	-	(11,958)	7,474
Total Funds	563,381	903,661	1,169,735	-	293,057

Notes to the Financial Statements



For the year ending 31st October 2024

14. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities	2024 (£)	2023 (£)
Net (expenditure)	(270,325)	(213,017)
Add back depreciation	23,802	40,721
Less interest income shown in investing activities	(10,967)	(11,467)
Decrease (Increase) in Debtors	47,066	98,233
Increase in Creditors	(53,054)	18,429
Net Cash Used in Operating activities	(263,478)	165,337

15. Related Party transactions

Donations amounting to £153,017 were received from Council members (2023: 265,610)

There are no other related party transactions during the year.

16. Redundancy Payments

During the reporting period, the charity made redundancy and termination payments totalling £4,235 to 2 employees (2023: £Nil to 0 employees) as part of an organisational restructure.

These payments are recognised as termination benefits in accordance with the charity's accounting policy

The nature of these payments includes statutory and contractual redundancy entitlements, and SORP requirement, which is to recognise redundancy and termination costs when there is a constructive obligation and the amount can be reliably estimated.

At the balance sheet date, £4,235 of these costs had been funded, with £Nil remaining unpaid and accrued within creditors.

17. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 802196

Accounts



Annual report &
Audited financial
statements for the year
ended 31 October 2023

Unlocking
self-belief
since 1932



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND OUR LEADERS

£395,777

WAS THE VALUE OF DONATED
HOURS AND GIFTS IN KIND FROM
OUR PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS
IN 2023.

Trusts/Foundation

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust (The) - Alecto Trust - Andrew Croft Memorial Fund - Artemis Charitable Foundation - Barratt Foundation (The) - Britford Bridge Trust (The) - Carpenter Charitable Trust - Chapman Charitable Trust - Drapers' Company (The) - Dudley and Geoffrey Cox Charitable Trust - Elizabeth Errington Charitable Trust - Erach and Roshan Sadri Foundation (ERSF) - Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust - Ethel and Gwynne Morgan Charitable Trust - Exilarch's Foundation (The) - GMVKR Trust - Hartz Family Foundation (The) - Hodge Foundation - John Armitage Charitable Trust - Johnnie Johnson Trust - J R Asprey Family Charitable Foundation (The) - Misses Barrie Charitable Trust - Peacock Charitable Trust - PF Charitable Trust - Portal Trust (The) - Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement.

Patrons

Anastasia Critides - Arabella Connell - Daragh & Anne Horgan - David & Judy Dangoor - David Simonson - George Moss - John & Catherine Hartz - Michael Oakley - Rahul Moodgal - Reepa & Krupesh Patel - Tim Kirk - Tim Passingham.

Trustees

Marvin Rees MBES (President) - Ian Maginnis (Chair) - David Tilston (Treasurer) - Carolyn Young - Claire Royston - David Wells - Jim Hopkinson MBES - Mark Fawcett - Rahul Moodgal - Soo Redshaw MBES - Tim Passingham.

Fellows

Alex Gregory MBE FBES - Ben Saunders FBES - Belinda Kirk FBES - Bruce Manning FBES - Caroline Hodges FBES - Chris Wright FBES - Daragh Horgan FBES - David Dangoor FBES - Doug Oppenheim FBES - Guðrún Tryggvadóttir FBES - Honor Wilson-Fletcher MBE FBES - James Dyer FBES - Colonel John Blasford Snell CBE FBES - Jules Penney FBES - Justin Warwick 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

Development Board

Rahul Moodgal (Chair) - Arabella Connell - Ben Saunders FBES - Carlotta Newbury - Duncan Souster - Jon Slade - Krupesh Patel - Petra Dismorr - Stuart Denard - Tim Passingham

Individuals

Andy Charlton - Andy Serkis MBES - Chris Heaney - Daniel Mazhindu MBES - Frances Morgan - Frank Esson MBES and Joanna Esson - George Bullard MBES - Guðrún Tryggvadóttir FBES - Ian & Janet Sinclair - James Dyer FBES - Jennie Richardson MBES - Joanne Hay - John Bothamley - Judi Morgan - Kate Wilson - Katie Beck MBES - Keith Breslauer - Kwesia X MBES - Liz Easton - Lucy Obolensky FBES - Mark Evans MBE FRGS - Neil Laughton MBES - Nigel Williams - Nigel Winser - Paul Rose - Ralph Doe - Rupert Eastwood - Shane Winser - Sophie Fernande - Steve Jones FRGS FEWM

Companies/Organisations

Bain & Company - Bala 4 x 4 Driving School - BBC Radio 4 - Brown Advisory - Cambridge Management Consulting - Catch22 - CBT Naryn - Christian Mountain Centre - Financial Times - Flying Squirrel Cabins - Hammersmith Academy - Hengistbury Investment Partners LLP - iConnections - Institute of Directors - Investec - ITMC, Kyrgyzstan - Kluane - National Park Authority - KSP London - Milestone Hotel & Residences - National Fostering Group - Pacific Market International Worldwide - Patron Capital - PayPal - Strategy B - Surrey 4 x 4 - Venture Trust - Wildfox Events - Wolverine Retail Ltd

//

It was one of the most
extraordinary experiences
of my life at the time.

Andy Serkis, Member,
British Exploring Society





I realized it's okay to be scared and to focus on staying positive and doing your best. Even just telling myself 'I can do this!' when I felt like giving up showed me how my attitude can shape my life. I took this lesson back home by joining a gardening group I'd been wanting to but was too nervous before.

Niveah, Hartz Scottish Explorers 2023

MEET NIVEAH

Hartz Scottish Explorers 2023

I was in year 13...feeling quite demoralised by personal struggles and a sore rejection from my dream university. Worries about my future and exam results often clouded me. I found that walking in my local park gave me some peace during this stressful time. Wanting to immerse myself further in this feeling, I pushed myself to sign up for the Scotland expedition. I was yearning for change. Initially, spending two weeks in the wild felt unimaginable. Would enjoying my local park and walks be 'enough' for me to thrive on the expedition? How will I deal with bad weather?

On Expedition I clicked instantly with my Fire. Everyone was so friendly with a contagious excitement for the adventures ahead. The explorers came from all over the UK so it was cool to spend time with people I'd probably never cross paths with otherwise. Who knew that we would be splashing around in a cold loch together, helping to rebuild a local museum, or conquering the 10th highest mountain in the UK! Our daily fire meetups were golden – a chance to let loose after a long day. After an inspiring, sometimes wet, day in the highlands, it was relaxing to scribble in the fire journal and to read about the trip from other explorers' viewpoints.

I learned practical skills like setting up a tent and packing a bag efficiently. Surprisingly, the knowledge stuff about plants helped me hike better. Since I could identify water-loving plants like cotton grass and sphagnum moss, I could walk on drier paths and avoid soggy socks!

Exploring ancient Scottish settlements on breaks from hiking made me think about sustainability in a whole new light...about the link between their lifestyles and the highlands today. Just like the ancient settlers, we camp near streams, which were our only water source. Similarly, we had to be really careful about how we did things like using the toilet or washing dishes to keep the water clean.

I'm so happy I took the plunge with this expedition. It grew my social skills, fitness, care for the environment and self-awareness. I felt such a deep connection to nature in the highlands; I never thought I would enjoy the rainy outdoors, let alone swimming in a freezing lake!

The expedition was full of challenges, highs and lows, leaving me with lifelong lessons... when climbing Ben Lawers there was some tricky terrain. My mind flooded with doubt and I felt like I couldn't continue. I felt physically stretched in a way I'd never felt, which was uncomfortable. The support of the Leaders and Young Explorers helped me to realise that fear is not a weakness but rather an opportunity for growth. I realised it's okay to be scared and to focus on staying positive and doing your best. Even just telling myself 'I can do this!' when I felt like giving up showed me how my attitude can shape my life...

Also, I was surprised to discover the level of focus and self-awareness I developed from being away from my phone because it plays such a big part in my everyday life!



The discomfort that I felt at first due to the midges, heavy packs and rain was outweighed by the breathtaking mountain views, and how supportive my Fire was of each other.

Niveah, Hartz Scottish Explorers 2023

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

President	Marvin Rees OBE	Charity Registration Number	802196
Members of the Council	Ian Maginnis (Chair)	Company Number	2411786 (England and Wales)
	David Tilston (Treasurer)	Registered Office and Principal Address	1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR
	Susan Redshaw		
	Rahul Moodgal		
	Carolyn Young	Email address	info@britishexploring.org
	Mark Fawcett	Web address	www.britishexploring.org
	Tim Passingham	Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland PLC 49 Charing Cross London SW1A 2DX
Jim Hopkinson			
David Wells	Chief Executive Officer	Auditor	Kreston Reeves LLP Second Floor 168 Shoreditch High Street London E1 6RA
Dr Claire Royston			
	Honor Wilson-Fletcher (Responsible for day-to-day management)		

The Council (board of trustees) presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document (Articles of Association), the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

ABOUT THIS YEAR

An introduction from our Chair, Ian Maginnis

- Introduction from Our Chair
- About us
- What We Have Achieved?
- Financial Review

I'm very pleased to say that 2022/23 was another successful year for British Exploring Society: a year in which our programmes delivered transformative outcomes for a diverse group of young people, many from challenging backgrounds; and a year in which we continued to progress our strategy – 'A Wild Future' – which sets the path for long-term growth and sustainability.

We know that what we do is really important. Recent national research that we commissioned told us that young people recognise that developing 'life skills' – such as bravery, confidence, physical and psychological well-being, and the ability to deal with challenging situations – is essential for a happy and successful adult life. But they also told us that they are developing these skills too late: when they are already adults over the age of 21.

We are now the only national charity able to provide programmes in the wilderness that are long enough to be truly transformative. Our focus is on responsive, high-impact, work, with those who will benefit most, and where we can deliver long-lasting impact. Our effectiveness comes from the expertise and ways of working that we have developed over 90 years: we know what we do works.

We want the outdoors to be fairer and more open, and welcome young people from right across society. Our Young Explorers represent an inclusive, diverse, cross-section of young people from a wide range of communities and experiences of adolescence. We are proud to work with young people living in foster care or leaving care, with the neurodiverse and those with physical impairment, as well as young people growing up in communities identified as facing multiple disadvantages.

700 young people benefitted from our work during the financial year. We delivered four full-scale expedition programmes in the UK and overseas, ten Expedition Workshops and one archive workshop. The young people we worked with reported improvements in their life-skills and mental well-being as a result of our programmes, and gave highly positive feedback on their experience with us. We achieved all this, despite another year in which the external environment was very challenging, particularly for fundraising and for recruiting volunteer Leaders.



700

YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM OUR WORK THIS YEAR.



We have continued to refine and simplify our programme approach, to prepare us for future growth and long-term sustainability. Having completed two full overseas programme years post-pandemic, we have sufficient learning to be able to adapt our programmes and organisationally, to meet the needs of the young people we serve in future.

Our outcomes and impact speak for themselves, and show the value of what we do. I want to thank everyone in the British Exploring Society community – our staff, our sponsors and donors, our partners and our Leaders – for everything they have done to make this year such a success.

I do hope you enjoy reading this report to find out more about us.

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of British Exploring Society and the positive experience that was 2023, and recognition for the collective efforts of everyone...to deliver what is a remarkable offer to young people. Having been involved for many years in education...but seeing by contrast the vibrant culture and impact of personal development through expedition has been a real privilege. Your charity provides what it does not because it is a legal requirement, but because the people involved believe in it, and want to be part of it, and that positive culture in no small way plays its part in the incredible outcomes for the Young Explorers themselves.

Chief Leader, 2023

ABOUT US

- Introduction from Our Chair
- About us
- What We Have Achieved?
- Financial Review

Our purpose

Our purpose is to unlock self-belief; to help young people Find their Fire.

Our vision

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

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.

As a charity, our core values are: **Courage, Challenge, Community** and **Self-belief**

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.

Wild places are where we work, and wild places are critical to us in achieving the outcomes we seek.

82%

of previous expedition participants from the 1930's - 1990's told us in 2023 that their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their personal development, confidence, staying on track, managing their feelings. (see page 27)

2023 IN BRIEF

17%

Identified as from a black or minority ethnic background.

At least

41%

Of the young people who went on expedition this year are from areas of deprivation,

23%

Declared a disability or long term illness.

41%

Came from households of less than £23,000 a year.

23%

Being from the highest levels of multiple deprivation.

700

Young people benefitted from our work this year.

The average ratio of Leaders to young people in 2023 was

1:2.2

Young people fundraised

£177,598

To learn key skills and to help others participate In future.

MY COMPASS OUTCOMES

My Compass outcomes star greatest average differences reported were in relation to making decisions that matter, confidence, managing my feelings and problem solving.

Warwick Edinburgh Mental wellbeing Scale biggest changes reported were in dealing with problems and feeling optimistic about the future.

SEE PAGE 24 FOR OUR FULL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We use this model to ask ourselves: Who are we trying to help? What are we trying to fix? How will we try and fix it? How will we know it has worked? Here it is:

Our corner stones are our values. They are modelled by our staff and Leader team and developed in our Young Explorers through our programmes.

SELF-BELIEF COMMUNITY COURAGE CHALLENGE

- In wild and remote locations
- For diverse groups of young people
- Supported by reliable, inspiring role models



How we recruit – our partners

Partnership working helps us reach and support marginalised groups. We have worked with some partners, like Catch22, for over a decade.

Our Leaders

Volunteering is core to our community and its impact. Professional volunteering supports key outcomes for us. For many young people, it is the first time an adult is picked to be with them, not paid to be. The ratio of Leaders to young people on expedition this year was on average 1:2.2.

Fundraising by young people

We provide fully funded places for all, to ensure fairer access to our activities. To acquire valuable skills for life, and after a simple means-test, we ask young people to fundraise to a goal when joining a full expedition programme.

Young people fundraised £177,598.67. These donations by young people help other young people to participate in future.

Our core activities;

- Programmes including a period in the wilderness in the UK
- Programmes including a period in the wilderness overseas
- Expedition Workshops, Archive Workshops

Our wilderness programmes include;

- A UK training weekend (all programmes)
- A UK training expedition week (overseas programmes)
- A wilderness phase of 2, 3 or 5 weeks
- Explorer Celebrations – reflection and presentation day (all programmes)



The scale and impact of your work was truly encapsulated at the celebration event...the collective experiences of everyone involved in this one expedition season was amazing.

New Chief Leader for 2023

THE YOUNG EXPLORER'S JOURNEY

We are always available to support Young Explorers. We build connections and learn how to support them better along the way. They develop responsibility, confidence, problem-solving and communication skills as they go.

Programme details

- 2 back-to-back UK expeditions, Hartz Scottish Explorers, Highlands of Scotland
- Dangoor Next Generation, Iceland
- Yukon, Canada
- Kyrgyzstan
- Expedition workshops in 10 locations
- Hybrid Archive Workshop

01

Application

The Young Explorer finds out about the opportunity and fills in the online application form.



02

The Young Explorer Chat

The Young Explorer has an initial conversation with the Engagement team; an opportunity for us to get to know each other and answer questions. For some, it's the first time they've ever spoken to a stranger on the phone.

03

Supporting Documents

The Young Explorer provides us with important additional information which helps give a better sense of how we can support them on their journey. This includes the "Supporting You" (medical) Form, Character Reference, and Household Income declaration which helps us to give the young person a means tested fundraising target.

04

Confirming Their Place

The Young Explorer officially accepts their place on the programme and their means-tested fundraising target. They make their first fundraising contribution, and their guardian provides consent for them to participate.



05

Fundraising Chat

The Young Explorer has a follow up phone call with the Engagement team to brainstorm ideas for fundraising and where they may need support in their preparation.

06

Fundraising

The Young Explorer puts their brainstorm into action and starts fundraising. Fundraising activities could include raffles, bake sales, part-time jobs and/or sponsored challenges.

12

Training Expedition (overseas programmes)

The Young Explorer attends the training expedition in the UK, where over four days they will get an idea of what life will be like on expedition.

11

Travel Essentials

The Young Explorer takes the necessary steps to ensure they can travel. Depending on the expedition, this can include a passport, a visa, and vaccinations.



10

Fitness and Mental Health

The Young Explorer receives their fitness and wellbeing pack and begins taking steps to mentally and physically prepare for life on expedition.

13

Final Preparations and Support Calls

The Young Explorer finalises their kit, fundraising and travel essentials, supported by regular follow up calls with the Engagement team.



14

Expedition

The Young Explorer departs for their expedition either by train to Scotland or from a London airport. For some, this will be the first time they travel significantly far from home.

15

'Back to reality' and Reflection

Upon returning home, the Young Explorer returns to their 'normal' life and reflects on their experience. They are invited to write Real Life Stories for British Exploring Society and submit photos for the Young Explorer Photo Competition.

09

Medical 1-1

The Young Explorer has a 1-1 meeting with the expedition Medical Leader to discuss their medical history and what support they may or may not need on expedition.

08

Induction Weekend (UK and overseas programmes)

The Young Explorer attends their induction weekend, where they meet their Fire and Leaders in person for the first time.

07

Kit List and Support Chats

The Young Explorer begins sourcing personal kit for their expedition and has regular check-in support chats with the Engagement team.



16

End of Programme Celebration

Three months after returning, the Young Explorer attends their end of programme celebration event and is reunited for the day with their Fire and Leaders. They celebrate and reflect together on how the expedition experience has changed their day-to-day life, and what they plan to do next. They also become a Member of British Exploring Society.

17

Find Your Path

With their Young Explorer journey complete, they go out into the world better equipped to make lasting positive decisions for themselves, their community, and the environment. As life-long Members, they will always be a part of British Exploring Society.



Programme:

DANGOOR NEXT GENERATION ICELAND



We are pleased to continue to work in partnership with Catch22 to deliver this programme and remain indebted to the Dangoor family for their sustained support.

"I'm going to copy a passage I wrote in my online blog while out in Iceland. These little moments of joy. The things I took for granted. Although I'm deprived and have less, I have a feeling of fulfilment. The people I've met, I've almost forgot what I left behind. It's a dangerous mixture of refreshing and terrifying. I almost don't recognise myself, the things I thought I couldn't live without have become luxuries. My normal routine (way of living) has been abolished. Thank you for this"

The overseas expedition phase provides opportunities for trekking, including river crossings. We work in an area of North East Iceland which includes the Askja Volcano and surrounding lava fields, Sellandafjall Mountain, Alderjarfoss waterfall and the southern edge of Lake Myvatn. Base Camp is located adjacent to the Sudura River 3km from the nearest settlement – Svartarkot Farm – on whose land the team are based, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the landowners.

3

**WEEKS OVERSEAS.
30 YOUNG EXPLORERS
AND 13 LEADERS**



Les Morgan Leader of the Year for 2023

Our Les Morgan Leader of the Year for 2023 was Gaby Wood, Chief Leader for our Iceland programme. Nominated by her fellow Leaders, they said that:

"Gaby...ensures everything that needs to happen gets done, whilst also keeping the safety, well being and experience of young people and leaders at the forefront of her decision making. Gaby's consistent energy, positive outlook, and genuine care for the entire expedition team was integral in the success of this year's DNG expedition. Gaby was the most incredible chief leader that I could have asked to work with."

Programme:

KYRGYZSTAN

Our second expedition to the area, and double the size this year.

Our second expedition to the area, double the size this year. We are exceptionally grateful for the support of the Eastwood family in funding basecamp, in memory of Alexander Eastwood. It provides opportunities for high altitude trekking based in the Naryn region towards the south of Kyrgyzstan. Base Camp was situated at the Northern-Eastern end of the At-Bashi mountain range and the terrain included mountain ridges and steep terrain including grass plains, rock, scree, and potential for ice.

5

**WEEKS OVERSEAS.
35 YOUNG EXPLORERS
AND 16 LEADERS**



'Snacks of the Expedition' by a Young Explorer, 2023

Programme:

CANADIAN YUKON



Les Morgan Young Explorer of the Year 2023

Our Les Morgan Young Explorer of the Year, drawn from nominations by Chief Leaders, went this year to Musa Bin Ali Sajjad.

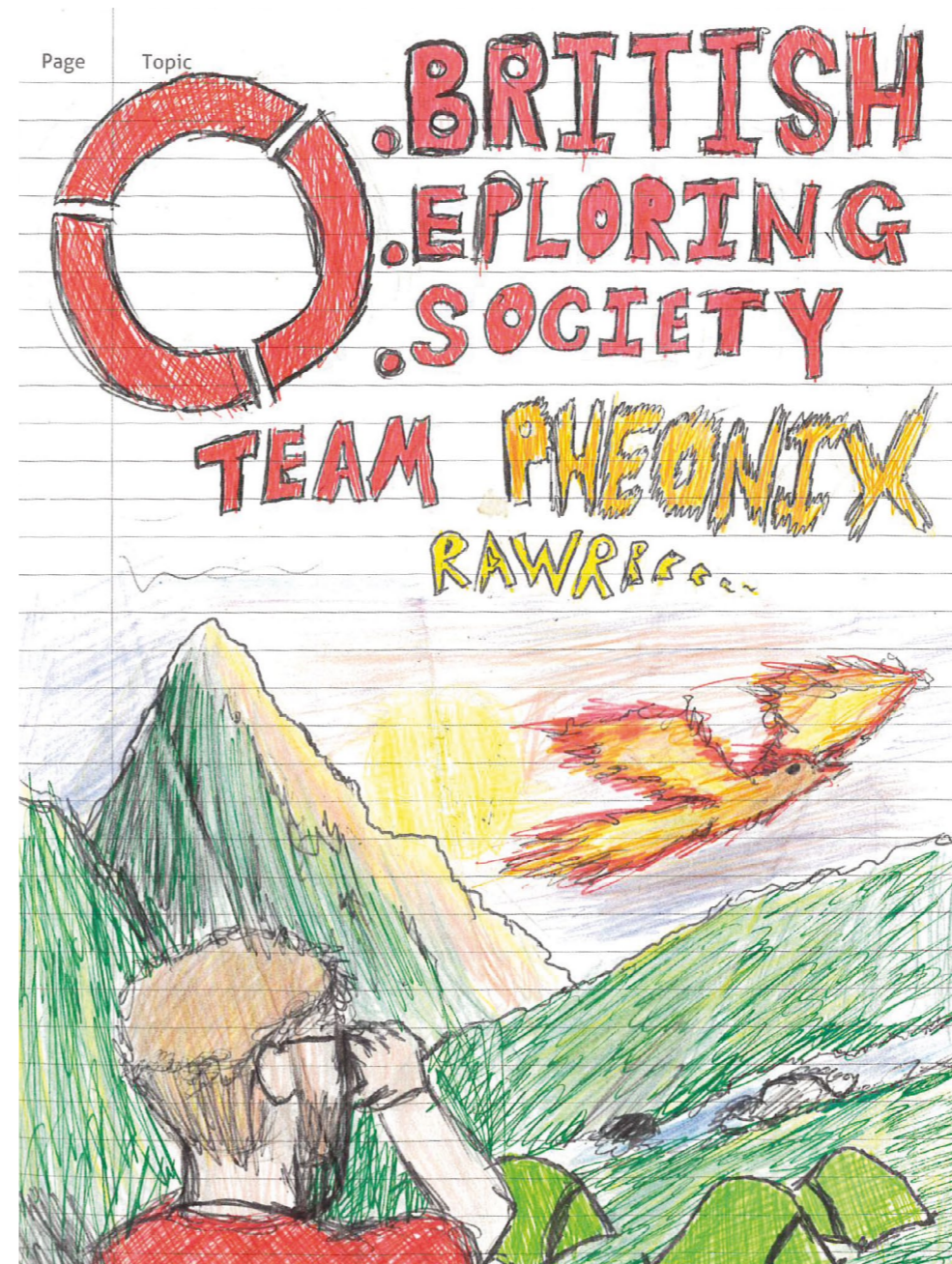
“Musa is incredibly persistent. He demonstrated courage in taking part in such an expedition that was at odds to his previous life experience, social groups and never complained no matter what the challenge. Frequently helping out his own Fire and volunteering for digging latrines, tidying, cleaning, stacking equipment, all without prompting. His good humour was infectious, taking part and starting games to lift spirits.”



The Moodgal Inspiration Award

The Moodgal Inspiration Award – in its inaugural year, went to Ronan Duffy, a Young Explorer who joined us on our Canadian Yukon programme. Nominations for this award can come from any person – a fellow Young Explorer, Leader, partner or member of staff.

“The emotional maturity displayed by Ronan was exceptional. He managed to be simultaneously a confidante, friend and guard and was immensely helpful to the leadership team. His happy-go-lucky attitude inspired the other members of the team he was with provided an instant boost to the mood of whichever group were lucky enough to have him. He has truly charmed the members of the Yukon trip. Ronan is incredibly self-aware for his age and has a genuine willingness to help people. I can see him being an inspiring social leader one day.”



‘Team Phoenix Rawr’ by a Young Explorer, 2023

Programme:

HARTZ SCOTTISH EXPLORERS PARTS 1 & 2

Hartz Scottish Explorers Part 1 and 2 each 2 weeks in Scotland. 50 Young Explorers and 18 Leaders.

The Hartz programme was devised and is made possible by the continuing support of the Hartz family, whose commitment to inclusion in adventure is a driving force behind this programme. Hartz Scottish Explorers 2023 expeditions were both delivered from a base camp in Ardtalnaig, on the banks of Loch Tay. Fires had the chance to participate in multi-day expeditions in the highlands surrounding Loch Tay in the areas both on the North and South sides.

2
IN SCOTLAND EACH. 50 YOUNG EXPLORERS AND 18 LEADERS.



Winner of the Teddy Watson Emerging Leader Award in Memory of Jean Sinclair

Our winner of the Teddy Watson Emerging Leader Award in Memory of Jean Sinclair this year was Katherine Durkin, who lead for us on both Hartz 1 and Hartz 2.

“Nominated by her fellow leaders, they said that she was; quiet, very thoughtful and very capable leader and...came across as deeply committed, supportive and kind - always ensuring the best interests of the Young Explorers were met.

Katherine was a brilliant Social Leader.. worked hard to understand the interests, skills, and goals of young explorers..and supported them to explore, develop, and meet these throughout the entire duration of the expedition.”



3

WEEKS OVERSEAS. 38 YOUNG EXPLORERS AND 19 LEADERS.



It's good that you get to go on adventures and meet new people. It's great that this can help you on your CV and give you leadership skills.

Student, Greenfaulds High School

FIRST STEPS IN ADVENTURE

November 22 – October 2023.

EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS

532

YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDED
EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS

We are indebted to George Moss for supporting us in the development of our Expeditions Workshops.

We now have 5 trained facilitators across the UK. We work with schools across England and Scotland in 10 locations. Lasting a full morning or afternoon, using 'real' resources from our expedition planning processes, we worked with Leaders to design active participation workshops for secondary schools. The workshops;

- Provide valued content and stand-alone learning
- Develop decision-making under pressure and support strategies for positive well-being
- Present new and relatable adult role-models
- Dispel myths -about fitness, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration
- Provide fun and learning in an exciting context, as we do on our programmes.

Archive Workshop

Our archive plan is taking shape, with our archivist now making appearances whenever possible at events and celebrations, engaging our newest Members and welcoming them to our community and heritage. We completed a trial pre-expedition Archive workshop with 6 members of the Kyrgyzstan 2023 programme. This was to introduce the cohort to our history and invite them to find their own place within it. It was delivered with support from two Explorer Ambassadors, whose stories from their expedition allowed us to weave the past into the present. We plan to take this forward into the next expedition season as a more inclusive pre-expedition engagement tool.



Lots of prep needed, not as easy as you think. I have learnt that you have to work together with your team to get tasks done.

Student, Sir William Robertson Academy



WHO WE ARE REACHING?

- Introduction from Our Chair
- About us
- What We Have Achieved?
- Financial Review

700

YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFITTED FROM OUR ACTIVITIES DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

- **49% of Young Explorers** were referred to us through our network of schools, youth organisations and partnerships this year. The **19 young people** who joined us from care this year found us through partners. Our Leader roles in 2023 were also in part filled by staff seconded from referring partner organisations like Catch22.
- Means testing indicates that **41% of the young people** with us this year come from households of less than **£23,000** a year. Mean household income in the UK after taxes and benefits in 2022 was **£38,100**.
- Post-code analysis (in England - not available in other countries in the UK) indicates that at least **41% of the young people** who went on expedition this year are from areas of deprivation, **23%** being from the highest levels of multiple deprivation. This measure can indicate poor access to employment, health, training and education, barriers to housing and services and a poor living environment, as well as economic disadvantage.
- Our cohort of young people included **17%** identifying as from a black or minority ethnic background, and **23% of young people** declared a disability or long term illness. **19 young people** joined us from care this year.

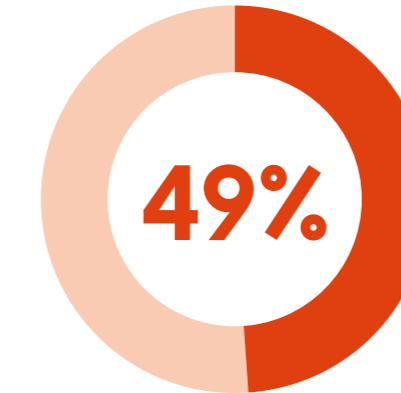
72

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONAL LEADERS PREPARED FOR AND PARTICIPATED IN INDUCTION AND TRAINING. 64 PARTICIPATED IN EXPEDITIONS IN THE FIELD IN 2023.

//

I gained a lot of confidence in my own...skills, as well as understanding I am better at a lot of social interactions than I thought. I realised I am able to stand up for myself even when that is really hard. I have learned about some other people with autism, and I found this really valuable for my personal development.

Young Explorer, 2023



of Young Explorers were referred to us through our network of schools, youth organisations and partnerships this year.



WHAT IMPACT ARE WE HAVING?



She doubted herself for a very long time, but she doesn't doubt herself now.

Family feedback 2023

Young people need the skills, behaviours, and confidence to look after their mental well-being, make good decisions, seize opportunities, and tackle contemporary challenges.

We help them secure these skills and to recognise the value of these behaviours.

“She wants to go out in the world now”.

Family feedback 2023

“From someone who was really introverted and a homebody, she now has big plans. She's found what she's really passionate about”.

Family feedback 2023

We use quantitative and qualitative evidence and wide-ranging anonymous feedback;

Socio-economic data + My Compass tool + Leader, Young Explorer, family, partner feedback + The Short Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale + Real Life Stories = a more complete narrative of the difference our programmes make.

Outcomes of My Compass – all expedition programmes

The My Compass tool is completed during training, and at points during expedition. It guides goal setting and reflective conversations, encouraging young people to think about what they hope to learn and to consider any skills or personal qualities they hope to build on.

Understanding the data

The Compass has 8 points and 6 intervals on each point. 1 interval change is significant, and more so at the 'beginning' or centre of each point than towards its outer edge. Mean figures inevitably conceal much larger steps for some. An interval change might mark a shift from, for example **“I am not in control of my feelings or of what triggers them”** to **“I can work out why I feel how I do but can't always control the feelings”**.

This year, the greatest significant average differences across all programmes were in relation to making decisions that matter, confidence, managing feelings and problem solving. 3 previous years of data are shown for comparison.

All expeditions	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feelings	Staying on track	Comms	Problem solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Interval 2023	0.90	0.86	0.67	0.83	0.79	0.98	1.00	0.74
Interval 2022	0.75	0.48	0.70	0.70	0.64	0.60	0.72	0.67
Interval 2021	0.72	0.77	0.62	0.69	0.77	0.74	0.96	0.74
Interval 2019	1.02	1.04	0.98	0.99	0.80	1.16	1.01	1.28

The Short Warwick – Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

This externally validated tool relates to a person's psychological well-being. It was designed by NHS Scotland, Universities of Warwick and Edinburgh to be used by organisations delivering practical programmes.

The biggest changes Young Explorers felt **from the beginning to the end** of the programme were in dealing with problems and feeling optimistic about the future.

All expeditions	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Interval 2023	0.66	0.54	0.55	0.65	0.43	0.56	0.53
Interval 2022	0.30	0.68	0.46	0.49	0.51	0.67	0.45
Interval 2021	0.29	0.70	0.33	0.39	0.34	0.72	0.19

Young Explorer feedback – self reported awareness of progression

Young Explorers are asked about their feelings, about advice they would give to future Young Explorers, about their learning and gains from the experience in anonymous feedback in which we track when My Compass themes are spontaneously referenced. The world and me, confidence and people and me stand out at the highest frequency;

My Compass themes	Number of references	Interval
People and me	49	0.98
Confidence	58	1.00
The world and me	53	0.74



UNLOCKING SELF-BELIEF TAKES TIME

This translates into:

949

CONTACT HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING, MEDICAL 121'S AND EXPEDITION FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON ON A PROGRAMME WITH A 5-WEEK EXPEDITION.

613

CONTACT HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING, MEDICAL 121'S AND EXPEDITION FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON ON A PROGRAMME WITH A 3-WEEK EXPEDITION.

344

CONTACT HOURS OF ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING, MEDICAL 121'S AND EXPEDITION FOR EVERY YOUNG PERSON ON A PROGRAMME WITH A 2-WEEK EXPEDITION.

OUR TEAM, LEADERS AND FACILITATORS SPENT

87,982

HOURS OF INTENSIVE CONTACT TIME IN TOTAL WITH YOUNG PEOPLE.

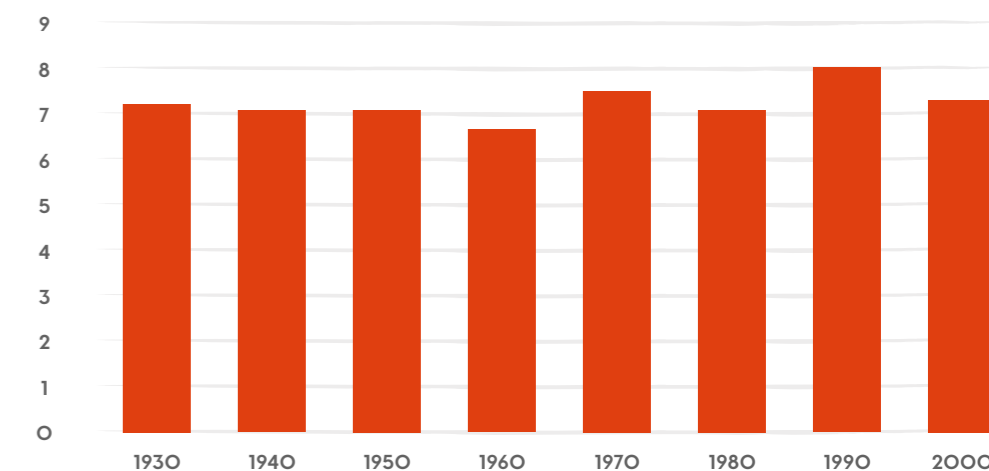
Our Impact over time

We have created an annual questionnaire to Members (previous expedition participants) using themes from My Compass and questions originally devised by Penn State University for their doctorate research paper 'The perceived long-term influence of youth expeditions on participants' lives' by Maria Jose Ramirez Canas in December 2019. The questionnaire will be sent each November as part of a communication to also clarify contact details. It was sent to 4500 members in November 2023. The questionnaire is non-compulsory and non-incentivised. At the time of this report, we had over 400 responses from every decade of birth from 1930's to 1990's.

- **82%** say their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their Personal development, confidence, staying on track, managing their feelings
- **81%** say their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their Skills – problem solving, communication, making decisions that matter
- **93%** say their expedition was Enjoyable and meaningful
- **79%** agree or strongly agree that their expedition changed the course of their life
- **81.5%** say their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their interest in the environment
- **74%** say their expedition had a positive or very positive impact on their attitude to volunteering, community value

The average overall positive impact reported by members does not significantly change, irrespective of the decade of their birth:

Average Impact by Decade



What we cannot yet measure

The positive changes Young Explorers go on to make in their lives;

The life-long community of support we work to build and maintain;

The above-average economic and societal contribution of our Members at work, and as volunteers;

The social action and volunteering which participants undertake with us, and subsequently.

30 YEARS ON

Explorers from Svalbard, 1993



It made me braver. Took away self-imposed restrictions – Svalbard had an impact that was completely disproportionate to the amount of time we actually spent out there. **It was one of the most profound experiences I have ever had - and is something by which all other big life events have been measured ever since.** There are specific moments...But I remember more the general feeling of hugely intense emotions and being truly part of something in a way I hadn't before. It feels like those bonds are always there, no matter what...I realised recently that actually what Svalbard did was to make me braver, in ways other than necessarily the purely physical. It made me less afraid to be myself, better at not feeling restricted by self-imposed limits on what I think I can or can't do.

– Louise Savic

I am willing to take on challenges, and recognise the good parts of myself – Svalbard 93 has left its mark on me, a big slash of before/after. It has taken time to realise all that happened, and to feel the effects, but it is there - I'm still a bit wild, or at least I'm willing to listen to that - I'm more adventurous, more willing than ever to try physical challenges. **I've become more aware of the good bits of my character, and I've worked on the less good - and all of that began over the summer of 1993.** The most important thing that remains are the incredible bonds and friendships that were hammered out - something fairly unique I think. When messages appear or emails, or talk of reunions or the odd picture, I pretty much drop everything.

– Tom Shaw

It gave me breathing space to make my own decisions – I dropped out of school aged 17 as I could not see the point in continuing with an education that didn't seem to fulfil my needs. Having left school, I needed to do something...I must admit, from memory, I had no real desire to go camping, skiing, climbing or counting Reindeer! To this day, I work pretty hard to avoid those activities...I spend my working days coaching and instructing people who work or want to be trained to work in the Watersports Industry, so I do work in the outdoors and I love every minute of it. The expedition helped me have me some breathing space to decide that going back to education was probably a good idea. Two years after the exped I gained my BTEC National Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science, which I thoroughly enjoyed. By this stage I really had Watersports under my skin and had pretty much decided to make a career of it. **My "A star" 16 year old son has decided that A levels are not for him...my experience aged 17/18 has helped me better understand and feel comfortable with his decision to make "different" choices. My folks really struggled with this.**

– Edward Curtis

I became more confident, able to cope with uncertainty – I came away a more confident, assured person, happier to face uncertainty without knowing everything will necessarily be alright on the other side. Immediately **when we got back from the expedition I found out I didn't get the grades in my A-levels to go to medical school as planned. Still flying on the high of my recent experience I somehow confidently changed track – one I am happily still on now running my own engineering consultancy in mid-Wales.** Svalbard left me with a deep appreciation for the environment we live in and it is a privilege to pass that on to my children.

– Crispin Angood

I learned incredible negotiation skills – ...it was beautiful and wild and awe inspiring, but for me it was the people that have left the most lasting impression. The depth of connection and friendship forged in that time has impacted me in so many ways through out my life. **I think all these learned skills affected my choices in my first career as a social worker. If you can work through long drop digging rotas, smelly tent mates and attempts to make camp food more palatable you can negotiate anything.** The bonds we forged have been held in a special part of my heart...It is impossible to explain how folk from such a short period of time such a long time ago have remained friends of such value.

– Kate Towse

I learned about community, and what a real team is – I now know that being able to find humour in the face of hardship is a hallmark of a strongly bonded team, and I feel really fortunate to have been part of one at such a young and formative age. Indeed, the oddness of recent times (plus WhatsApp) has burnished our links and there's now routine communication which I really value. Why? Well, they are friends I hold dear for reasons that are hard to explain, but which are rooted in a shared discovery of a hard but magnificent wilderness... **these friends have been (and are still) a calming touchstone that transports me back to a simpler, more mindful time when life was stripped back to toil, food and laughter;** to the joy of community and a shared meal; to little wins like triumphantly finding your lost spoon or an uneaten dextrose tablet. Svalbard in 1993 was full of adventure, friendship and laughter, but probably **the most valuable thing I brought home was a personal realisation that life near the bone really is where it is sweetest.**

– Aran Jess



Now that I'm home and the reality has all passed, I always try to seek the best in every circumstance...It has taught me to look beyond the negatives and see what life has to teach me.

Young Explorer 2023

WHAT'S NEXT?

Keeping the strategic momentum going

- We are launching a new programme with a strong focus on environmental decision making – **Pinnacle Wild Leadership**
- We are re-siting our Scottish programmes - to Blair Atholl near the Cairngorms and to the Hebrides. Our Islands programme will have a particular focus on field science.
- We have completed and will start to implement a **knowledge review** as part of a commitment made at an inclusion forum we hosted at St George's House in April 2022.
- We have changed our approach to recruitment, including for trustees, and altered our terms of employment and appraisal to support a more diverse workforce.
- We finished the year with a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society – '**A Wild and a Fairer Future**' highlighting the remaining challenges to making the outdoors a fairer, more welcoming place for all.
- To celebrate the value of young voices in our work, we invited applications for **Explorer Ambassadors** this year, and recruited our first cohort of 8. They share the unique experience of having been on expedition with us, but with their varied backgrounds and life paths since, are an invaluable guide to young people just starting their journey into the outdoors. They are able to challenge us to improve and develop through their experiences. They are paid for their time with us, and we are beginning to provide training for them as we understand better how to support them.



British Exploring Society gave me the opportunity to be myself without judgment. I was more than just a label for the first time in my life. I was able to share my specialist interests with like-minded people and I could channel my impulsivity into exploration. This allowed me to see my diagnosis of autism and ADHD as a positive, because I wasn't being told to sit inside the box, and I loved it!

Young Explorer 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Introduction from Our Chair

About us

What We Have Achieved?

Financial Review

2022/23 has been a year of quiet consolidation, and a preparation for change at British Exploring Society. In our fundraising we continue to tackle real challenges, and we are still not meeting every programme funding target we would like to.

We welcome the prospect of a gradually more robust future with the professionalism of a highly effective Development board, and with a growing pipeline of individuals, trusts and foundations joining us in the last year. We are also now at full strength in the fundraising team following an extended recruitment exercise during 2022/23. We have been supported by the increasingly successful endeavours of the young people who learn how to fundraise as part of their programme with us, too.

We are also now assisted in challenging times by thus far being able to control our programming with sufficient foresight to be able to manage our overall income. We took the decision in August 2023, for example, to reduce some of our overseas activity in 2024. This advance decision avoided unnecessary start up costs and reduces our financial commitments whilst we continue to develop our pipeline of supporters. We have subsequently announced an internal reorganisation to more closely coordinate our fundraising and membership services activities so that our Members are better informed of our activities and means by which they can support the charity. In addition the new organisation is better placed to drive operational efficiencies.

British Exploring Society generated £1,615,677 of income (2022: £1,571,104). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £1,828,694 (2022: £1,622,872).

There was a net deficit on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £213,017 (2022: £51,768) reflecting the decision to run two overseas expeditions during the year in line with our charitable object and the challenging fundraising environment. Our forecasts of the net deficit as we progressed through the year led us to take the decisions to reduce our overseas activity in 2024 and implement the reorganisation as discussed above.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2023 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 42 of these financial statements.

Carbon reporting for 2022/23

In our 10-year strategy A Wild Future we made a commitment to report on our greenhouse gas emissions, and to share our progress in becoming a more sustainable organization in our annual report. We commenced carbon reporting for 2023 in January 2024.

Our overall carbon footprint which includes office costs and programmatic activities for 2022 has been calculated by Carbon Managers for us at 415 tonnes CO₂e. In this year, our expedition activities were overseas and in the UK. We will report in full on our 2023 emission in next year's annual report. We have purchased Pending Insurance Units to offset our greenhouse gas emissions for 2022. PIUs are carbon credits in mitigation of our carbon emissions. Units purchased will accumulate over time to offset emissions already incurred. Our PIUs will be available on the UK Land Carbon Registry for public scrutiny. We have sought high conservation/restoration value schemes of genuine value to landowners, with public access. We continue to work with ForestCarbon www.forestcarbon.co.uk at Hawkshaw on the Scottish Borders. They plant native broadleaves (Downy Birch, Oak, Aspen, Willow, Alder, Scots Pine, Rowan, Thorny Scrub) and support flood mitigation,

improved water quality and wildlife. It has pedestrian access and the right to roam. We hope that the site will be of programmatic/knowledge value to us as it matures.

Going forward, we aim to deliver an average 5% per annum reduction in our principal source of emissions – flights – to deliver a 50% overall reduction in emissions from flights by 2032.

Investment Policy and Performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is implemented with other governance and financial controls, and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. 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 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.

The balance held as unrestricted funds at 31st October 2023 was £167,459 of which £125,852 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 2023 was £395,923. At the 31 October 2023 free reserves stood at approximately 1.5 months' worth of average operating costs. Council has approved a budget for 23/24 which reflects the reduction in overseas expeditions for the current year and takes account of an increase in fundraising staff and the evolution of our fundraising strategy as mentioned above. The budget returns our free reserves towards the equivalent of our target minimum of 3 months of average operating costs by the end of the budget year.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The current economic conditions, particularly in relation to fundraising, have been reviewed and taken into consideration. Like most programme-based charities, British Exploring Society depends on the continued support of existing and new donors throughout the year. Grants continue to be received and plans have been put in place for future activities. The trustees have also taken account of progress in the fundraising strategy with donations beginning to be received from new supporters, the reorganisation and focus on operational improvements, and the level of restricted and endowment funds of £395,923 at 31 October 2023 and which in certain circumstances could be more flexibly utilised. For these reasons, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 42.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



Current British Exploring Policies:

- Archive Management
- Anti-Bullying
- Ant-corruption and Bribery
- Conflicts of Interest
- Complaints
- Data & Privacy Protection
- Environmental
- Ethical Fundraising and Partnerships
- Ethical Expeditions
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
- Expenses
- Fellowship
- Finance and Procedures
- Grievance Capability and Disciplinary
- Health & Safety at Work
- Membership
- Photography and Filming
- References
- Reserves
- Risk Management
- Safe Operations
- Safeguarding

- Take Down
- VIP Visits
- Visitors
- Whistleblowing

Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory regulation, fundraising and financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with. The executive team under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance against all agreed performance indicators. The responsibility for all activities towards the achievement of the charity's charitable purpose which take place overseas during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

As of the end of the financial year, the charity was employing 15 full-time and 3 part-time employees who manage the direction and day-to-day administration of the charity. Many volunteers offer their services regularly or on an ad hoc basis and assist Council and staff. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity as a donation.

Members of Council meet regularly in person or remotely, at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of sub-committee meetings, to manage its affairs. Individual Council members additionally dedicate their time to oversee specific areas of activity to support the executive staff team.

Council from time to time appoints Advisors to Council. These are individuals with expertise in areas of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association which were updated in 2017 at its AGM. Third party indemnity provision is in force at the time of approval of the report or during the period, for the benefit of one or more directors, this is fact. British Exploring Society has in place trustees, Directors, and Officers Public Liability insurance.

Members of Council, listed on page 3, are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of the Council are appointed at Council or at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company. The Council is entitled to propose candidates

for election to Council and to appoint additional members of Council. New members of Council are recruited to the Council by formal application and with the support of a nominations sub-committee. In selecting new members of Council, consideration is given to the specific contribution they can make to the Council and the charity. A regular skills and training audit is undertaken to ensure that appointments reflect the strategic priorities of the charity.

Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council and is kept under annual review. Several criteria are used in setting pay:

- Nature of the role and responsibilities;
- The sector-average salary for comparable positions;
- General trends in pay.

Approach to Managing Risk

The charity must manage two categories of risk: those to itself and those to the Leaders and young people who participate on its programmes in wild and remote areas. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance on a dynamic, case-by-case basis. Effective governance and oversight of risk provide assurance that British Exploring Society's activities will not be adversely affected by predictable risks, which in turn reduces the likelihood of not achieving its strategy, or the occurrence of material incidents that could have a significant impact on the charity's reputation and financial sustainability.

Council members and the Chief Executive's senior leadership team identify risks to British Exploring Society. The major risks are documented, monitored by the senior leadership team on a continuous basis, and reviewed at each Council meeting. An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive team in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Areas affected by risk include programmes, finances, governance, operations, insurance, compliance with law and regulation, and external perceptions and relationships.

Programme risk management process

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and their Expeditions Managers, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing programmes and their associated risks. On expedition, this is delegated to Chief Leaders, who as agents of the charity are responsible for the system.

This system includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs). These cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and Experts including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which a programme may be exposed.

SOPs are reviewed by the British Exploring Society senior leadership team and technical advisors. They are updated in the light of practical experience and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are also subject to interrogation through a targeted

desk-based process of research which considers environmental, political, and other risks which we may not have been previously encountered in the field just prior to departure.

Expedition Leadership

A capable Chief Leader with experience and judgement is the anchor for a safe, well-managed programme delivering long term outcomes. The Chief Executive, Head of Expeditions and/or Expeditions Managers question each candidate Chief Leader at length and satisfy themselves about their abilities and experience before appointment. The British Exploring Society executive team reserves the right to require a Chief Leader to stand down from expedition leadership at any point if they have reason to believe that the individual can no longer effectively manage dynamic risk assessment in the field or support the delivery of wider charitable objectives to the appropriate standard.

The responsibility for selecting and developing a strong, cohesive expedition leadership team which understands the mission, ethos and expectations of British Exploring Society, rests with the Chief Leader, Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, and is overseen by the Chief Executive who reports to Council. Each Chief Leader works closely with the British Exploring Society office throughout the planning process. They assess risks relevant to programme objectives, client group and environment, and, following relevant operating procedures, develops a comprehensive set of plans including for rich content, communications, major incidents, and medical emergencies. The nominated expedition lead at British Exploring Society reviews the risk assessment, itinerary and plans.

Before each new programme, Young Explorers, Leaders and Experts are trained to identify and manage risks.

At the start of a programme further training is given. A Chief Leader, liaising with the British Exploring Society office in London, will adapt their plans, risk assessment and control measures to suit the circumstances in the field at the time.

Financial Risk

Financial risk represents the risk to the charity of having insufficient funds to carry out its committed charitable activities, due to over-reaching in planning such activities, insufficient fund-raising or general poor management or funds and expenses. Council mitigates financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee of Council chaired by the Treasurer, which meets approximately two weeks before every Council meeting. Executive staff present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review and cross-checking by the sub-committee before such information is submitted to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. Council Members have direct oversight of fundraising performance. The finance sub-committee is given delegated authority to manage the deposits and investments of the Society. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually. Council has primary oversight of fundraising given its importance to the charity.

Programme risk management oversight

- Council members monitor processes and review the Chief Executive's assessment of the readiness of each programme to commence before authorisation.
- 'Consent to deploy' for each programme is usually delegated to the Operations Committee.
- Council members may attend participant training or spend time in the field in the UK.
- Council reviews post-expedition reports and performance data and remedial actions to be incorporated into future planning. This ensures that the charity's system for identifying and managing risks to Leaders and participants and to the charity are robust and transparent.

The charity is a member of the Expedition Providers' Association. Learning Outside the Classroom, its accrediting body, assesses the following areas to seek assurance about expedition risk:

- British Exploring Society standard operating procedures and the risk management process;
- The expeditions/operations team;
- The CEO as risk manager;
- Technical advisors who support the design of policies, procedures and mitigation of risk;
- Chief Leaders as agents in the field;
- Compliance with British Standard 8848; and
- Members of Council monitoring all stages of an expedition.

British Exploring Society's Council and its Operations sub-committee is satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2022/23.

Our Charitable Object is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

The trustees have taken due note of their responsibilities under the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. They are confident of the impact of British Exploring Society and the benefit to wider society through work in the following areas:

- 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 education through the development of individual capabilities, competencies, skills and understanding;
- 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. In addition to its own Ethical Fundraising Policy, it 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 raise funds via an in-house fundraising team and donations are received through the following channels: Charitable Trusts and Foundations, Corporates, Individuals and Events. Our fundraising activities are closely monitored by our Senior Leadership Team, which reports to our Board of Trustees.

We received no complaints in relation to fundraising activities in the 2022/23 financial year. Finance Committee had no cause to review any non-compliance with any area of fund-raising activity.

We are registered with the regulatory body for fundraising in the UK, the Fundraising Regulator, and pay an annual levy to support

its work. We adhere to the standards outlined in the regulator's Code of Fundraising Practise. We regularly review our fundraising activities to ensure they fully comply with the code, do not place an unreasonable intrusion on anyone's privacy or put them undue pressure on them to donate.

Our work brings us into regular contact with young people between the ages of 14 and 26, 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

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of Council are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the Auditor

So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- Certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the auditors are aware of that information.

Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on 18th March 2024 and signed on behalf of the Council by:

David Tilston
Treasurer


David Tilston (Mar 18, 2024 09:38 GMT)

Ian Maginnis
Chair of Trustees



Independent Auditor's Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Exploring Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 October 2023 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 October 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 38, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs

(UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud.

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety, GDPR and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), the Companies Act 2006 and other relevant charity legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated trustees and management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate the desired financial results and management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud, and review of the reports made by management; and
- Assessment of identified risk factors; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit

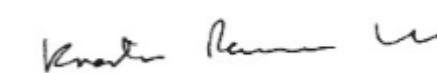
procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Stephen Tanner BSc(Econ) FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP, Statutory Auditor

Kreston Reeves LLP

Second Floor

168 Shoreditch High Street

London

E1 6RA

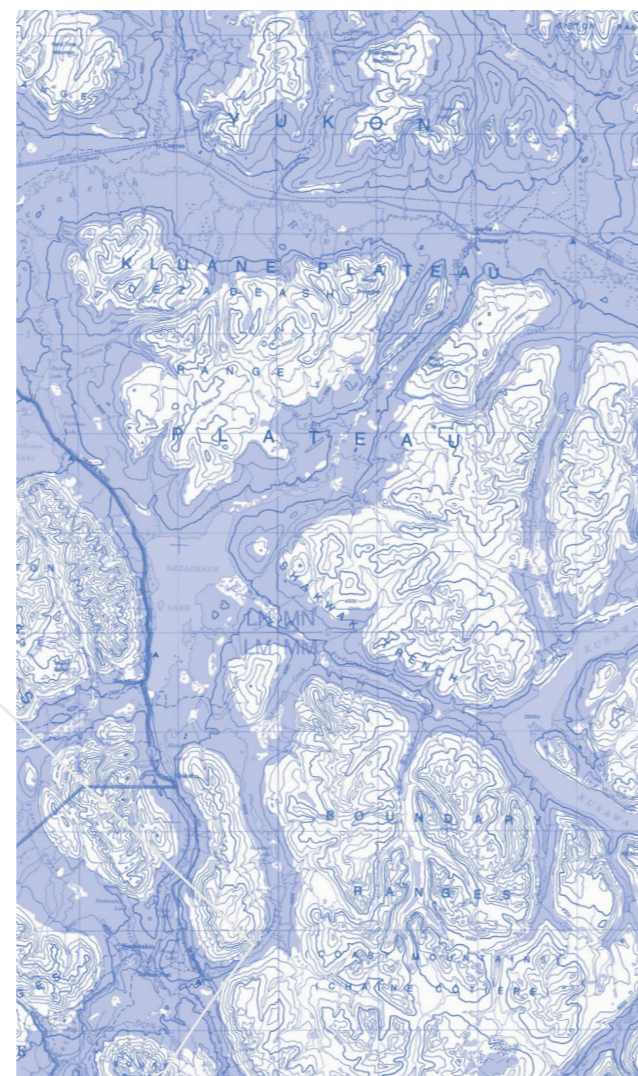
Kreston Reeves LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

18th March 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

1,282

TOTAL DONATIONS RECEIVED
IN 2022/2023



Statement of financial activities

For the year ending 31st October 2023

Income	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Donations	2	744,706	451,589	110	1,196,405	952,518
Income from charitable activities:						
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	3	36,252	366,799	-	403,051	616,156
Income from investments	4	11,467	-	-	11,467	1,189
Other income	5	4,754	-	-	4,754	1,241
Total incoming resources		797,179	818,388	110	1,615,677	1,571,104
Expenditure	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Expenditure on raising funds						
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	677,719	1,150,975	-	1,828,694	1,622,872
Total expenditure		677,719	1,150,975	-	1,828,694	1,622,872
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		119,460	(332,587)	110	(213,017)	(51,768)
Transfer between funds		(237,589)	262,663	(25,074)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(118,129)	(69,924)	(24,964)	(213,017)	(51,768)
Reconciliation of funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Total funds brought forward		285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399	828,167
Total funds carried forward	13	167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382	776,399

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet

As at 31st October 2023

Fixed Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Tangible fixed assets	7	41,607	-	-	41,607	56,132
Total fixed assets		41,607	-	-	41,607	56,132
Current Assets	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Cash at bank and in hand		151,890	376,861	19,062	547,813	629,643
Debtors	8	73,962	-	-	73,962	172,195
Total current assets		225,852	376,861	19,062	621,775	801,838
Creditors	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(100,000)	-	-	(100,000)	(81,571)
Net current assets		125,852	376,861	19,062	521,775	720,267
Net assets		167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382	776,399
Charity Funds	Notes	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Endowment funds		-	-	19,062	19,062	44,026
Restricted income funds		-	376,861	-	376,861	446,785
Unrestricted income funds		167,459	-	-	167,459	285,588
Total charity funds	13	167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382	766,399

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 18th March 2024 and signed on behalf of Council by:

David Tilston
Treasurer

David Tilston
David Tilston (Mar 18, 2024 09:38 GMT)

Ian Maginnis
Chair

Ian Maginnis

Statement of cash flows

For the year ending 31st October 2023

Cash flows from operating activities	Notes	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Net cash used in operating activities	15	(67,101)	(90,002)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest		11,467	1,189
Purchase of assets		(26,196)	(15,984)
Net cash flow by investing activities		(14,729)	(14,795)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		629,643	734,440
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		547,813	629,643

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31st October 2023

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

British Exploring Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Expedition contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Donations in kind or by way of donated equipment are accounted for on receipt, at the estimated value. Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on receipt by the charity and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Recognition of donated services

Donated services are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services are recognised on the basis of the value of the voluntary time contribution to the organisation, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Cost of expeditions: 95%

Management and administration of the charity: 5%

1.5 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.6 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

Expedition equipment: between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis

Office equipment and computers: 25% straight line basis

Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes:

- **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.
- **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.11 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions

in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.13 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were accruals of £4,021 (2022: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2022/23 amount to £19,207 (2022: £19,241).

1.14 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.15 Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The current economic conditions, particularly in relation to fundraising, have been reviewed and taken into consideration. Like most programme-based charities, British Exploring Society depends on the continued support of existing and new donors throughout the year. Grants continue to be received and plans have been put in place for future activities. The trustees have also taken account of progress in the fundraising strategy with donations beginning to be received from new supporters, the reorganisation and focus on operational improvements, and the level of restricted and endowment funds of £395,923 at 31 October 2023 and which in certain circumstances could be more flexibly utilised. For these reasons, The trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

2. Income from donations	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Cash donations	634,313	166,205	110	800,628	782,504
Donated services	110,393	285,384	-	395,777	170,014
	744,706	451,589	110	1,196,405	952,518
Cash donations	646,331	135,863	310	-	782,504
Donated services	4,500	165,514	-	-	170,014
	650,831	301,377	310	-	952,518
3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	36,252	366,799	-	403,051	616,156
	36,252	366,799	-	403,051	616,156
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	85,127	531,029	-	-	616,156
	85,127	531,029	-	-	616,156
4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Interest receivable on cash deposits	11,467	-	-	11,467	1,189
	11,467	-	-	11,467	1,189
Interest receivable on cash deposits	1,189	-	-	-	1,189
	1,189	-	-	-	1,189

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

5. Other income	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Miscellaneous receipts	4,754	-	-	4,754	1,241
	4,754	-	-	4,754	1,241
Miscellaneous receipts	1,241	-	-	-	1,241
	1,241	-	-	-	1,241
6. Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Cost of expeditions:					
Total expedition costs	31,718	608,969	-	640,687	665,797
Donated services	110,393	285,384	-	395,777	170,014
Salary cost	458,935	241,515	-	700,450	694,693
Depreciation	-	15,107	-	15,107	9,415
Total cost of expeditions	601,046	1,150,975	-	1,752,021	1,539,919
Governance costs:					
Salary costs	36,866	-	-	36,866	36,563
Office costs	5,787	-	-	5,787	12,617
Auditors fees	7,400	-	-	7,400	6,800
Depreciation	26,620	-	-	26,620	26,973
Total governance cost	76,673	-	-	76,673	82,953
Total charitable activities	677,719	1,150,975	-	1,828,694	1,622,872

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

6. Charitable activities <i>(continued)</i>	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Cost of expeditions:					
Total expedition costs	37,386	628,411	-	-	665,797
Donated services	4,500	165,514	-	-	170,014
Salary costs	452,987	241,706	-	-	694,693
Depreciation	-	9,415	-	-	9,415
Total cost of expeditions	494,873	1,045,046	-	-	1,539,919
Governance costs:					
Salary costs	36,563	-	-	-	36,563
Office costs	12,617	-	-	-	12,617
Auditors fees	6,800	-	-	-	6,800
Depreciation	26,973	-	-	-	26,973
Total governance costs	82,953	-	-	-	82,953
Grants awarded to individuals	-	-	-	-	-
Total charitable activities	577,826	1,045,046	-	-	1,622,872

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

7. Tangible Fixed Assets	Expedition Equipment (£)	Office Equipment & Computers (£)	Total (£)
Cost:			
At 1 November 2022	258,760	161,739	420,499
Additions	25,220	976	26,196
At 31 October 2023	283,980	162,715	446,695
Depreciation:			
At 1 November 2022	235,684	128,683	364,367
Provided in the year	15,107	25,614	40,721
At 31 October 2023	250,791	154,297	405,088
Net Book Value at 31 October 2023	33,189	8,418	41,607
Net Book Value at 31 October 2022	23,076	33,056	56,132

8. Debtors	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Other debtors	51,614	172,195
Prepayments & accrued income	22,348	-
Total	73,962	172,195

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Trade creditors	69,502	32,898
Other creditors	-	3,968
Expedition Contributions in advance	-	20,000
Social Security	21,610	17,905
Accruals	8,888	6,800
Total	100,000	81,571

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

10. Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2024 expeditions

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Balance as at 1 November 2022	20,000	-
Amount released to income from charitable activities	(20,000)	-
Amount deferred in the year	-	20,000
Total	-	20,000

11. Staff Costs

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Staff wages and salaries	655,588	647,033
Social security cost	62,521	64,982
Other Pension cost	19,207	19,241
Total	737,316	731,256

	2023 (No.)	2022 (No.)
Full Time Employees	15	15
Part Time Employees	3	3
Total number of Employees	18	18

One Staff member received benefits above £60,000. The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) was £60,000 or more was:

	2023	2022
£100,000 to £110,000	1	1

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefits in kind in the year. No members of Council received expenses relating to travel and subsistence, or staff entertaining (2022: nil).

British Exploring Society considers its key management personnel comprise Council members and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits paid to key management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £102,999 (2022: £102,999).

The charity paid £2,810 (2022 £3,293) for Trustees' indemnity insurance.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

12. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Fund (£)	Total 2023 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	41,607	-	-	41,607
Debtors	73,962	-	-	73,962
Cash at bank and in hand	151,890	376,861	19,062	547,813
Creditors	(100,000)	-	-	(100,000)
Total	167,459	376,861	19,062	563,382

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Endowment Funds (£)	Total 2022 (£)
Tangible Fixed Assets	56,132	-	-	56,132
Debtors	172,195	-	-	172,195
Cash at bank and in hand	138,832	446,785	44,026	629,643
Creditors	(81,571)	-	-	(81,571)
Total	285,588	-	-	776,399

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

13. Analysis of fund balances: Movement in resources	Brought Forward 01/11/2022 (£)	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfers (£)	Carried Forward 31/10/2023 (£)
Unrestricted Funds:					
General fund	285,588	797,179	677,719	(237,589)	167,459
Total Unrestricted Funds	285,588	797,179	677,719	(237,589)	167,459
Restricted Funds:					
	Brought Forward	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfers (£)	Carried Forward
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	200,000	-	5,000	-	195,000
The Exilarch's Foundation	-	170,254	170,254	-	-
The Band Trust	142,928	-	30,000	-	112,928
The Hartz Family Foundation	-	120,000	120,000	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	103,857	545,479	843,066	262,663	68,933
Total Restricted Funds	446,785	835,733	1,168,320	262,663	376,861
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds:					
	Brought Forward	Income (£)	Expenditure (£)	Transfers (£)	Carried Forward
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,708	50	-	-	11,758
Alexander Eastwood Award	25,074	-	-	(25,074)	-
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,244	60	-	-	7,304
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	44,026	110	-	(25,074)	19,062
Total Funds	776,399	1,633,022	1,846,039	-	563,382

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £395,923 (2022: £490,811) are represented by cash balances of £395,923 held within Cash at Bank. Further detail relating to the fund structure is provided in the accounting policies note (page 47, note 1.15). £25,074 was derestricted from permanent endowment to fund other restricted activities in 2023.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ending 31st October 2023

14. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

15. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Net (expenditure)	(213,017)	(51,768)
Add back depreciation	40,721	36,388
Less interest income shown in investing activities	(11,467)	(1,189)
Decrease (Increase) in Debtors	98,233	(85,328)
Increase in Creditors	18,429	11,895
Net Cash Used in Operating activities	(67,101)	(90,002)

16. Related party transactions

Donations amounting to £265,610 were received from Council members (2022: 59,504). There are no other related party transactions during the year.

FIND YOUR FIRE



A company limited by guarantee
and not having share capital.

Registered charity Number: 802196
Company Number: 2411786

Tel: +44 20 4534 0777
Email: info@britishexploring.org
Web: www.britishexploring.org
Facebook: British Exploring Society
X: @Brit_exploring
Instagram: @Brit_exploring
LinkedIn: British Exploring Society

British Exploring Society
1 Kensington Gore
London
SW7 2AR

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 802196

Accounts



BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital

Registered charity Number: 802196

Company Number: 2411786

Annual Report

and

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

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.

'I think the British Exploring Society is so exceptional because it is so accessible....It makes it unique.'

'British Exploring Society is the only organisation...that takes young people on this sort of expedition...as a young person it's so difficult to find opportunities...and do what you're interested in...I know I want to get involved in the environment.'



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Reference and administrative information	

President	Marvin Rees
Members of the Council	Ian Maginnis (Chair) David Tilston (Treasurer) Susan Redshaw Jane Park-Weir (resigned September 2022) Rahul Moodgal Carolyn Young Patrick Van Daele (retired April 22) David Bartles-Smith (resigned November 21) Mark Fawcett (appointed April 22) Tim Passingham (appointed April 22) Jim Hopkinson (appointed April 22) David Wells (appointed April 22) Dr Claire Royston (appointed April 22)
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary	Honor Wilson-Fletcher (Responsible for day-to-day management)
Charity Registration Number	802196

Company Number	2411786 (England and Wales)
Registered Office and Principal Address	1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR e-mail: info@britishexploring.org www.britishexploring.org
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Charing Cross London SW1A 2DX
Auditor	Kreston Reeves LLP Third Floor 24 Chiswell Street London EC1Y 4YX

The Council (board of trustees) presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document (Articles of Association) the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

An introduction from our Chair, Ian Maginnis

“2022 was our 90th anniversary year, and we had many reasons to celebrate.

710 young people benefitted from our work this year: 171 taking part in our expeditions, and the remainder through our expedition workshops and ‘Wildestan’ virtual adventure programme. Most pleasing was the fact that, for the first time since 2019, and the Covid pandemic, we were able to run overseas expeditions. Two of these were to new locations: Lake Baikal and Kyrgyzstan.

Most importantly, our expeditions and programmes delivered great outcomes with young people from a diverse range of backgrounds.

Our strategic partners, who help us recruit and support young people, and the fact we offer fully funded places, mean we have made it easier for young people from all backgrounds to join us. More than 50% of our Young Explorers were from parts of the country with below average household income, 20% from areas with the most severe deprivation; 56% were from low-income families; 12% were from ethnic minorities; 24% had some form of disability and 34 were in care. Young Explorers reported improvements in their life-skills and mental well-being, and gave us highly positive feedback. Particularly encouraging was the fact that Young Explorers raised over £130,000 for British Exploring Society, while developing skills in fundraising and managing money at the same time.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital.

Over 223 Young Explorers, parents and carers, and volunteer leaders recently joined us for 'Next Steps': the culmination of a successful season. Next Steps is a unique part of what we do, where Young Explorers reflect on their expedition experiences and plan for the future, and where we welcome them into our British Exploring Society community as members.

During the year, we also made good progress on 'A Wild Future', our new strategy launched earlier in the year.

A key part of A Wild Future is inclusivity: how we welcome and involve our people. In April we held a two-day consultation at St George's Chapel in Windsor, bringing together thought leaders from our sector to discuss how we can make exploration more sustainable and inclusive, and create better access to the outdoors for young people.

Environmental sustainability is another important part of A Wild Future. This year we developed a carbon plan. It lays out how we can continue to deliver high quality expeditions to wild locations but reduce our carbon emissions at the same time.

Everyone in the British Exploring Society community knows about the great things we do, but it is frustrating that there is not greater awareness of us outside our community. This year we were able to increase our public profile. Most notable were full page colour adverts in the Financial Times and being given a BBC Radio 4 charity appeal slot with one of our members, Andy Serkis, making the appeal for us.

Despite these successes, 2022 was not an easy year. The worlds of outdoor education and international travel are not back to normal after the pandemic, making planning and delivering expeditions extremely challenging; inflation has put significant pressure on our costs; and a slowing economy has made fundraising more difficult. I'm proud that everyone in the British Exploring Society community – our staff, our donors and supporters, our partners, and our volunteer Leaders – stepped up to make great things happen in 2022. On behalf of Council, I want to thank everyone in our community for what you do: Without your hard work and support, none of this would be possible."

'An incredible experience in which I have grown as a person..while having the most fun I've ever had.'

Our Charitable Object and What we Do

Our object is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

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.

'The best time of my entire 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 focus is on responsive, high-impact, long lasting work with those who can benefit most.

Our effectiveness comes from the enduring expertise we have developed over our 90 years and from a commitment to learn from every programme we deliver.

Our scale comes from;

- the life-long community of support we work to build;
- the economic and societal contribution of our members;
- the social action and volunteering which participants undertake as part of their programme with us;
- our growing understanding of how to provide more support to each young person we work with;
- delivering more touch points so that we can support more young people – and support those young people more - on their journey with us.

Delivering on our strategy A Wild Future 2022 – 2032

A commitment to sustainability with our people, in our programmes and to our planet

Access to the outdoors is still not equal. We now provide fully funded programmes to ensure fairer access to our services (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders). **But everyone still makes a commitment** to us and to the programme they join. To acquire skills for life, we still ask young people to fundraise towards the work of the charity when joining us for full expedition programmes. Young people learned the skills with us to fundraise **£135,501** towards our core costs. The donations young people make help us enable future participation for other young people.

'fundraising and keeping track of money..is not a skill taught in schools'.

'I think it can be really difficult for young people, and women especially to put themselves out there and create opportunities for themselves, and fundraising has taught me a bit about how to do this.'

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. 29 young people exceeded their targets.

Means testing indicated that over 50% of the 171 young people who went on expedition with us this year came from households where income is **£23,000 or less a year**. Median income in the UK in 2021 was £31,400.

'For my fundraising, with the help of my dad I was able to come up with the idea of selling homemade curries....This helped me feel connected to my...Indian roots as well as to raising the money I needed.'

Our programmes and the planet. In A Wild Future we made a commitment to report on our greenhouse gas emissions, and to share our progress in becoming a more sustainable organization in our annual report.

Our overall carbon footprint which includes office costs and programmatic activities for 2021 is estimated at 60.5t CO₂e. In this year, all our expedition activities were in the UK. We will report in full on our 2022 emission in next year's annual report. This will be our first full year of UK and overseas programmes since 2019, pre-COVID.

'I have become far less wasteful after expedition.'

- We have provided IEEM accredited carbon management training to 12 staff and Leaders;
- We have designated a member of staff to help us calculate and report on our carbon management effectively;
- Going forward, we aim to deliver a 5% per annum reduction in our principal source of emissions; travel;
- We have purchased Pending Insurance Units* to offset our greenhouse gas emissions for 2020 and 2021.

*PIUs are carbon credits in mitigation of our carbon emissions as the units we have purchased on the site will accumulate over time to offset the emissions already incurred. Our PIUs will be available on the UK Land Carbon Registry and available for public scrutiny. We have sought high conservation/restoration value schemes where the projects are of genuine value to landowners, and with public access. We are working with ForestCarbon www.forestcarbon.co.uk at their site at Hawkshaw on the Scottish Borders, between Locherbie and Edinburgh. They are planting a good mix of native broadleaves (Downy Birch, Oak, Aspen, Willow, Alder, Scots Pine, Rowan, Thorny Scrub) since Spring 2021, and the scheme is supporting flood mitigation, improved water quality and wildlife. It has pedestrian access through the woodland site and being in Scotland there is the right to roam - including for us at British Exploring Society. We hope that this will be of programmatic/knowledge value as the site matures.

Our people. We will not be able to deliver on our mission and vision without the skills and capabilities of a more diverse and inclusive workforce and community. We have changed our approach to recruitment, and altered some terms of employment in order to support a more diverse workforce. We still have much more to do. We are grateful for the support and challenge of everyone who is helping us along the way.

Volunteering is core to British Exploring Society's community and to its impact. Professional volunteering explicitly and implicitly supports the delivery of key outcomes for the charity. The charity has thrived - and depended - on the support and contribution of professional volunteers in making back-office delivery possible, too.

The largest gift we receive each year is the charitable donation of hours worked we receive from our professional volunteers. In 2022 this was valued for audit at £170,014 (2021: £127,600). 98 volunteer professional Leaders and Experts prepared for and participated in induction and training. 78 participated in expeditions in the field in 2022.

We also benefit from a wide range of professional skills gifted to us to support our strategic development from our for their support with risk management, strategy and the sourcing of kit stores.

We welcome young people from right across society. The main beneficiaries of our work are 14 - 26. Our Explorers and Adventurers represent an inclusive, diverse cross section of young people from a wide range of communities and experiences of adolescence. We are proud to offer 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.

Many young people are introduced to us by trusted partners who provide invaluable support throughout the time the young people they refer spend with us. 45% of our Young Explorers in 2022 - where we have access to data – are designated as residing in areas of deprivation. The Indices data we use excludes Scotland, so the % of deprivation we declared in 2022 would be higher if Scottish postcodes were included.

The number of young people that find us through our community remains significant, with 23 joining us this year through family and friends.

Our partners

Partnership working helps us reach and support more marginalised groups. Our Leader roles in 2021 were in part filled by staff seconded from referring partner organisations including Catch22 and Outcomes First Group.

57% of Young Explorers were referred to us through our network of schools, youth organisations and partnerships this year.

Our Impact

Young people need the skills, behaviours, and confidence to make good decisions, seize opportunities and tackle contemporary challenges. In assessing our impact, we consider our success in supporting young people in securing that confidence and those skills and in recognising the value of those behaviours.

The impact of our work is always set against the backdrop of considerable change in young peoples' lives. We use a combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence to give us a more complete narrative of the difference our programmes make.

- Socio-economic data;
- The My compass tool;
- The Short Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale;
- Real Life Stories;

Outcomes of My Compass – across all expedition programmes

This year, the greatest significant average differences in intervals reported by Young Explorers using the My Compass tool across all programmes were in relation to making decisions that matter, staying on track and in communication.

The Short Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

Using the Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale our Explorers reported the largest average interval change in relation to being useful and feeling close to people.

We also consider how often the core My Compass themes are spontaneous referenced by Young Explorers in their anonymous feedback to us at the end of their programme. From this we can see that the world and me, confidence and people and me, problem solving stand out at by far the highest frequency of reporting.

Programmes and core activities in 2021/22

710 young people benefitted from our work during the financial year. We delivered 6 full scale expedition programmes in the UK and overseas in this year. All overseas programmes included;

- A UK training weekend
- A UK training expedition week
- An overseas phase of 3 or 5 weeks
- Next Steps reflection and presentation day

We delivered Expedition Workshops and Wildestan Adventures at points throughout the year. Our wilderness programmes in 21/22 were;

- Pinnacle in Siberia
- UK Explorers Spring in Scotland
- Dangoor Next Generation in Iceland
- 2 summer expeditions - in Krygyzstan and the Yukon, Canada.
- 2 back-to-back expeditions in the Highlands of Scotland.

Pinnacle Siberia March 2022. 4 weeks overseas. 9 Young Explorers and 4 Leaders were recruited in 2020 and then took part in extensive engagement and on-line training sessions in preparation for our first expedition to Lake Baikal, which is the largest lake in the world by volume, and frozen annually from January to May.

This programme - our most challenging - generously supported by Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable settlement, was repeatedly postponed by world events until February 2022. During the course of postponement we took the opportunity to work with the team to adapt our travel plans to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. The team travelled by Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow to Irkutsk.

The programme was for a journeying expedition – snow and ice travel and camping and field science and a winter traverse across the frozen surface of Lake Baikal dealing with very extreme low temperatures. The expedition was to be conducted on the frozen surface of the lake with minimal activity on the surrounding land.

The team travelled safely to their destination, but their cold weather kit was frustratingly delayed at Heathrow. Following the outbreak of war with Ukraine, the embargo on flights meant that the kit could not be despatched to the team, the expedition had to be curtailed and the team brought home (without incident).

UK Explorers Spring 2 weeks in Scotland .27 Young Explorers and 13 Leaders. The training weekend for this programme had to be cancelled at very late notice due to severe weather warnings, and the expedition itself also faced very challenging weather. The programme was based at Insh Scout Camp in the Highlands, which is adjacent to the river Spean and is an open meadow surrounded by wooded areas.

Dangoor Next Generation Iceland 3 weeks overseas. 29 Young Explorers and 13 Leaders travelled to Iceland. We are very pleased to work in partnership with Catch-22 to deliver this programme and remain indebted to the Dangoor family for their sustained support.

In 2021, we delivered this programme in Scotland to meet the restrictions imposed during COVID. Whilst this was very successful, we were very pleased to be able to return to Iceland in 2022.

The expedition provides opportunities for trekking, including river crossings. We work in an area of North East Iceland which includes the Askja Volcano and surrounding lava fields, Sellandafjall Mountain, Alderjarfoss waterfall and the southern edge of Lake Myvatn. Base Camp is located adjacent to the Sudura River 3km from the nearest settlement – Svartarkot Farm – on whose land the team are based, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the landowners.

Kyrgyzstan 2022 5 weeks overseas. 18 Young Explorers and 9 Leaders
This is our first expedition to the area - and therefore the routes the team investigated were genuinely exploratory. It provided opportunities for high altitude trekking based in the Naryn region towards the south of Kyrgyzstan. Although generally temperate, weather can be changeable and the team had to expect snow patches especially nearer summits. Base Camp was in a valley situated at the Northern-Eastern end of the At-Bashi mountain range at an altitude of 2756 metres and the terrain included mountain ridges are steep terrain including grass plains, rock, scree, and potential for ice.

Yukon 3 week and 5 week programme overseas. 38 Young Explorers and 19 Leaders.
Base in the Yukon Territory of northwestern Canada, it provides trekking and canoe-based river journeys of up to 3 days. The team used a base camp on privately owned land around Dezadeash Lake, situated approximately 50km south of Haines Junction. The team trekked in Kluane National Park and the surrounding area. The park is home to Canada's highest peak (5,959m Mount Logan) and its largest ice field. It is well-known for its fantastic scenic landscape and there are glaciers in the far west of the park. The entire area of the Yukon is home to abundant wildlife including black and grizzly bears.

Hartz Scottish Explorers 1 and **Hartz Scottish Explorers 2** each 2 weeks in Scotland. 51 Young Explorers and 18 Leaders.

Hartz Scottish Explorers 2022 expeditions were delivered from a base camp in Ardtalnaig, on the banks of Loch Tay. Fires had the chance to participate in multi-day canoeing expeditions on the Loch where there are several small islands for exploration and trekking expeditions in the hills with the areas both on the North and South sides of Loch Tay available for exploration.

Wildestan Adventures. 3 adventures. 33 participants.

We were trialling new approaches to delivering Wildestan this year, to embrace 'post-COVID' ways of working. Each live, interactive virtual adventure was hosted by one of our professional Leaders, called an Expert, and was themed around – and where possible delivered in –the wilderness. We use as much as we can of the same mix of Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development as we do in the wilderness to engage young people in lively activities.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital.

Expedition Workshops November 21– October 2022. 478 young people attended an Expedition Workshop in 2021/2.

We worked in partnership with schools across England and Scotland and visited 7 locations. Lasting a full morning or afternoon, using ‘real’ resources from our expedition planning processes, we worked with Leaders to design active participation workshops for secondary schools. The workshops were designed to;

- provide valued content and stand-alone learning
- develop decision-making under pressure and support strategies for positive well-being
- present new and relatable adult role-models
- dispel myths -about fitness, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration
- have fun and learn in an exciting context, as we do on our programmes.

Young people were asked after each Workshop to provide feedback on what they had learnt, what they enjoyed and what they would change:

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page [24].

2021/22 has been a challenging year for British Exploring Society. Following a successful prior year, when the charity bolstered its reserves following the pandemic, the fund-raising environment became much more challenging. Indeed one well known and long standing outdoor experiences charity was forced to cease trading. We have nevertheless received continuing support from our core donors and others as a result of the sterling work by our fundraising team. The Development Board has continued to raise significant sums and has organised a major event to celebrate our 90th anniversary, with some funds received prior to the year and further contributions shortly afterwards.

British Exploring Society generated £1,571,104 of income (2021: £1,255,362). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £1,622,872 (2021: £1,176,344).

There was net deficit on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £51,768 (2021: £79,018). The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2022 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 24 of these financial statements. We have made considerable efforts to provide refunds to young people where expeditions did not proceed due to the pandemic. Where young people have either not yet sought the refund, or are considering ‘carrying over’ their contribution, any unrefunded balances are held in creditors, as seen in note 9.

Investment Policy and Performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves policy is implemented with other governance and financial controls and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. 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 cost.

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.

For the purposes of this policy Reserves are defined as Unrestricted income funds less the net book value of tangible fixed assets and less any reserves designated for specific purposes by Council. Reserves would normally expect to be represented by freely available cash balances, bank deposits and other liquid investments as adjusted by the balance of short-term working capital items which are expected to convert into cash items in the near future

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 2022 was £285,588 of which £229,456 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 2022 was £490,811. During the year to 31 October 2022 the target minimum reserves level of three months' worth of operating costs was breached, which led to the activation of more regular reviews by the Finance Committee in line with established policy. At the 31 October 2022 reserves stood at approximately [2.7] months' worth of average operating costs. The 90th anniversary fund raising event shortly after the end of the financial year led to an increase in reserves such that had additional funds raised been included in our accounts as of 31 October 2022 then Reserves would have stood above the minimum target Reserves level. Nevertheless, the Finance Committee and Council will remain focussed on the level of Reserves whilst the challenging fundraising environment persists.

Structure, Governance and Management

Our Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory regulation, financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with. The executive team under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance against all agreed performance indicators. The responsibility for all activities towards the achievement of the charity's charitable purpose which take place overseas during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

As of the end of the financial year, the charity was employing 15 full-time and 3 part-time employees who manage the direction and day-to-day administration of the charity. Many volunteers offer their services regularly or on an ad hoc basis and assist Council and staff. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity as a donation.

Members of Council meet regularly in person or remotely, at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of sub-committee meetings, to manage its affairs. Individual Council members additionally dedicate their time to oversee specific areas of activity to support the executive staff team.

Council from time to time also appoints Advisors to the Board. These are individuals with expertise in areas of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association which were updated in 2017 at its AGM.

Members of Council, listed on page 3, are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of the Council are appointed at Council or at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company.

The Council is entitled to propose candidates for election to Council and to appoint additional members of Council. New members of Council are recruited to the Council by formal application and with the support of a nominations sub-committee. In selecting new members of Council, consideration is given to the specific contribution they can make to the Council and the charity. A regular skills and training audit is undertaken to ensure that appointments reflect the strategic priorities of the charity.

Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council and is kept under annual review. Several criteria are used in setting pay:

- Nature of the role and responsibilities;
- The sector-average salary for comparable positions;
- General trends in pay.

Policies:

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

Approach to Managing Risk

The charity must manage two categories of risk: those to itself and those to the Leaders and young people who participate on its programmes in wild and remote areas. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance on a dynamic, case-by-case basis. Effective governance and oversight of risk provide assurance that British Exploring Society's activities will not be adversely affected by predictable risks, which in turn reduces the likelihood of not achieving its strategy, or the occurrence of material incidents that could have a significant impact on the charity's reputation and financial sustainability.

Council members and the Chief Executive's senior leadership team identify risks to British Exploring Society. The major risks are documented, monitored by the senior leadership team on a continuous basis, and reviewed at each Council meeting. An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive team in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Areas affected by risk include programmes, finances, governance, operations, insurance, compliance with law and regulation, and external perceptions and relationships.

Programme risk management process

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and their Expeditions Managers, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing programmes and their associated risks. On expedition, this is delegated to Chief Leaders, who as agents of the charity are responsible for the system.

This system includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs). These cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and Experts including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which an programme may be exposed.

SOPs are reviewed by the British Exploring Society senior leadership team and technical advisors. They are updated in the light of practical experience and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are also subject to interrogation through a targeted desk-based process of research which considers environmental, political, and other risks which we may not have been previously encountered in the field just prior to departure.

Expedition Leadership

An experienced, capable Chief Leader is the bedrock upon which a safe, well-managed programme is founded. The Chief Executive, Head of Expeditions and/or Expeditions Managers question each candidate Chief Leader at length and satisfy themselves about their abilities and experience before appointment. The British Exploring Society executive team reserves the right to require a Chief Leader to stand down from expedition leadership at any point if they have reason to believe that the individual can no longer effectively manage dynamic risk assessment in the field or support the delivery of wider charitable objectives to the appropriate standard.

The responsibility for selecting and developing a strong, cohesive expedition leadership team which understands the ethos and expectations of British Exploring Society, rests with the Chief Leader, Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, and is overseen by the Chief Executive who reports to Council. Each Chief Leader works closely with the British Exploring Society office throughout the planning process. They assess risks relevant to programme objectives, client group and environment, and, following the relevant operating procedures, develop a comprehensive set of plans including for communications, major incidents, and medical emergencies. The nominated expedition lead at British Exploring Society reviews the risk assessment, itinerary and plans.

Before each new programme, Explorers, Leaders and Experts are trained to identify and manage risks.

At the start of a programme further training is given. A Chief Leader, liaising with the British Exploring Society office in London, will adapt their plans, risk assessment and control measures to suit the circumstances in the field at the time.

Programme risk management oversight

- Council members monitor processes and review the Chief Executive's assessment of the readiness of each programme to commence before authorisation.
- 'Consent to deploy' is usually delegated to the Operations Committee.
- Council members may attend participant training or spend time in the field.
- Council reviews post-expedition reports and performance data and remedial actions to be incorporated into future planning. This ensures that the charity's system for identifying and managing risks to Leaders and participants on its expeditions and to the charity are robust and transparent.

The charity is a member of the Expedition Providers' Association. Learning Outside the Classroom, its accrediting body, assesses the following areas to seek assurance about expedition risk:

- British Exploring Society standard operating procedures and the risk management process;
- The expeditions/operations team;
- The CEO as risk manager;
- Technical advisors who support the design of policies, procedures and mitigation of risk;
- Chief Leaders as agents in the field;
- Compliance with British Standard 8848; and
- Members of Council monitoring all stages of an expedition.

British Exploring Society's Council and its Operations sub-committee is satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2021/2.

Financial Risk

Financial risk represents the risk to the charity of having insufficient funds to carry out its committed charitable activities, due to over-reaching in planning such activities, insufficient fund-raising or general poor management of funds and expenses. Council mitigates financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee of Council chaired by the Treasurer, which meets approximately two weeks before every Council meeting, and in the event that the target minimum Reserves is not met then more frequently. Executive staff present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review and cross-checking by the sub-committee before such information is submitted to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. The finance sub-committee is given delegated authority to manage the deposits and investments of the Society. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually.

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

Statement of Public Benefit

The trustees have taken due note of their responsibilities, under the Charity Commission's guidance on 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 2021/22 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 26, 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.

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of Council are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the Auditor

So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the auditors are aware of that information.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital.

Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on ... *8 FEBRUARY 2023* ... and signed on behalf of the Council by:



David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair of Trustees

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Exploring Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 October 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 October 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report on this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken during the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustee's report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 19, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charity and sector, and through discussion with the trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risk was related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase income or reduce expenditure. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud, and review of the reports made by management; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant regulatory authorities; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and

- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

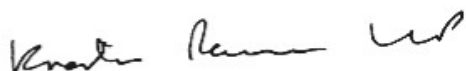
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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

Date 9 February 2023

Kreston Reeves LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	650,831	301,377	310	952,518	674,648
<i>Income from charitable activities</i>						
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors'	3	85,127	531,029	-	616,156	580,115
income from investments	4	1,189	-	-	1,189	80
Other income	5	1,241	-	-	1,241	519
Total incoming resources		738,388	832,406	310	1,571,104	1,255,362
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds		-	-	-	-	7,631
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	577,826	1,045,046	-	1,622,872	1,168,713
Total Expenditure		577,826	1,045,046	-	1,622,872	1,176,344
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		160,562	(212,640)	310	(51,768)	79,018
Transfers between funds		(206,967)	206,967	-	-	
Net income/(expenditure)		(46,405)	(5,673)	310	(51,768)	79,018
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		331,993	452,458	43,716	828,167	749,149
Total funds carried forward	15	285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399	828,167

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restrict ed Funds £	Endowment Fund £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible fixed assets	7	56,132	-	-	56,132	76,536
Total Fixed Assets		56,132	-	-	56,132	76,536
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at bank and in hand		138,832	446,785	44,026	629,643	734,440
Debtors	8	172,195			172,195	86,867
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		311,027	446,785	44,026	801,838	821,307
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(81,571)	-	-	(81,571)	(69,676)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		229,456	446,785	44,026	720,267	751,631
NET ASSETS		285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399	828,167
CHARITY FUNDS						
Endowment		-	-	44,026	44,026	43,716
Restricted income funds		-	446,785	-	446,785	452,458
Unrestricted income funds		285,588	-	-	285,588	331,993
		285,588	446,785	44,026	776,399	828,167

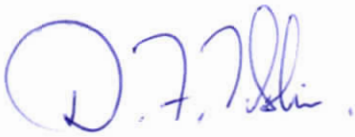
BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

The notes on page 28 to 38 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 1 and signed on behalf of Council by:

David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair

8 FEBRUARY 2023



BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2022****STATEMENT OF CAHSFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2022**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Net Cash used in operating activities	16 (90,002)	74,889
Cashflow from investing activities		
Interest	1,189	80
Purchase of assets	(15,984)	(31,509)
Transfer of cash from investment	-	-
Net cash flow by investing activities	<u>(14,795)</u>	<u>(31,429)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(104,797)	43,460
Cash and cash equivalent brought forward	734,440	690,980
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>629,643</u>	<u>734,440</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

British Exploring Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Expedition contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Donations in kind or by way of donated equipment are accounted for on receipt, at the estimated value. Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on receipt by the charity and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Recognition of donated services

Donated services are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services are recognised on the basis of the value of the voluntary time contribution to the organisation, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

1.4 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Cost of expeditions	95%
Management and administration of the charity	5%

1.5 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.6 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

Expedition equipment	between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis
Office equipment and computers	25% straight line basis

Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

1.10 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes: -

- **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.
- **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.11 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.13 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were no accruals or prepayments (2021: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2022 amount to £19,241 (2021: £17,339).

1.14 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.15 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the members of Council believe that no material uncertainties exist. Members of the Council have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the 12 months from authorising these financial statements in the light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

2. Income from donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash donations	646,331	135,863	310	782,504	547,038
Donated services	4,500	165,514	-	170,014	127,610
	650,831	301,377	310	952,518	674,648

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Cash donations	546,913	-	125	547,038
Donated services	2,400	125,210	-	127,610
	549,313	125,210	125	674,648

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	85,127	531,029	-	616,156	

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	-	580,115	-	580,115

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	1,189	-	-	1,189	80
	1,189	-	-	1,189	80

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable on cash deposits	80	-	-	80
	80	-	-	80

5. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Insurance pay-outs					
Miscellaneous receipt	1,241	-	-	1,241	519
	1,241	-	-	1,241	519

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
insurance pay-outs				
Miscellaneous receipts	519	-	-	519
	519	-	-	519

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

6. Charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>				
Total expedition costs	37,386	628,411	-	665,796
Donated services	4,500	165,514	-	170,014
Salary cost	452,987	241,706	-	694,693
Depreciation	-	9,415	-	9,415
Total cost of expedition	494,873	1,045,046	-	1,539,918
<i>Governance cost</i>				
Salary cost	36,563	-	-	36,563
Office cost	12,617	-	-	12,617
Auditor's fees	6,800	-	-	6,800
Depreciation	26,973	-	-	26,973
Total governance cost	82,953	-	-	82,953
Grant awarded to individuals	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total charitable activities	577,826	1,045,046	-	1,622,871

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>				
Total expedition costs	110,486	221,983	-	332,469
Donated services	2,400	125,210	-	127,610
Salary cost	470,394	159,224	-	629,618
Depreciation	4,680	-	-	4,680
Total cost of expedition	587,960	506,417	-	1,094,377
<i>Governance cost</i>				
Salary cost	33,138	-	-	33,138
Office cost	7,602	-	-	7,602
Auditor's fees	6,150	-	-	6,150
Depreciation	24,841	-	-	24,841
Total governance cost	71,731	-	-	71,731
Grant awarded to individuals	-	2,605	-	2,605
	-	2,605	-	2,605
Total charitable activities	659,691	509,022	-	1,168,713

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

7. Tangible fixed Asset	Expedition equipment	Office equipment & computers	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 November 2021	245,536	158,979	404,515
Additions	13,224	2,760	15,984
At 31 October 2022	<u>258,760</u>	<u>161,739</u>	<u>420,499</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 November 2021	226,269	101,710	327,979
Provided in the year	9,415	26,973	36,388
At 31 October 2022	<u>235,684</u>	<u>128,683</u>	<u>364,367</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2022	<u>23,076</u>	<u>33,056</u>	<u>56,132</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2021	<u>19,267</u>	<u>57,269</u>	<u>76,536</u>

Per Balance Sheet

8. Debtors	2022	2021
	£	£
Other Debtors	172,195	15,950
Prepayment & Accrued Income	-	70,917
	<u>172,195</u>	<u>86,867</u>

9. Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	32,898	28,993
Other creditors	3,968	6,528
Expedition Contributions in advance	20,000	10,540
Social Security	17,905	17,465
Accruals	6,800	6,150
	<u>81,571</u>	<u>69,676</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

10. Deferred income

Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2023 expedition

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance as at 1 November 2021	-	10,540
Amount released to income from charitable activities	-	(10,540)
Amount deferred in the year	20,000	-
	<u>20,000</u>	<u>-</u>

	2022	2021
	£	£
11. Other Financial commitments		
Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable rental leases are as follows:	-	-
- within one year	-	15,381
- within two to five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>15,381</u>

12. Staff Cost

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff Wages and Salaries	647,033	589,375
Social security cost	64,982	56,042
Other Pension cost	19,241	17,339
	<u>731,256</u>	<u>662,756</u>

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Full time Employees	15	13
Part-Time Employees	3	5
Total number of employees	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>

1 Staff member received benefits above £60,000. The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) was £60,000 or more was:

	2022	2021
£90,001 to £100,000	1	1

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

Staff Cost (Cont'd)

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefits in kind in the year. No members of Council received expenses relating to travel and subsistence, and staff entertaining (2021: nil).

British Exploring Society considers its key management personnel comprise Council members and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits paid to key management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £102,999 (2021: £102,999).

The charity paid £3,293 (2021: £2,199) for Trustees' indemnity insurance.

13. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

14. Analysis of nets assets between funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Fund	Total 2022
Tangible Fixed Assets	56,132	-	-	56,132
Debtors	172,195	-	-	172,195
Cash at bank and in hand	138,832	446,785	44,026	629,643
Creditors	(81,571)	-	-	(81,571)
	<u>285,588</u>	<u>446,785</u>	<u>44,026</u>	<u>776,399</u>
				Total 2021
Tangible Fixed Assets	76,536	-	-	76,536
Debtors	86,867	-	-	86,867
Cash at bank and in hand	238,266	452,458	43,716	734,440
Creditors	(69,676)	-	-	(69,676)
	<u>331,993</u>	<u>452,458</u>	<u>43,716</u>	<u>828,167</u>

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £490,811 (2021: £496,174) are represented by cash balances of £490,811 held within Cash at Bank. Further detail relating to the fund structure is provided in the accounting policies note (page 28, note 1.10).

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2022

15. Analysis of funds balances: Movement in resources	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Carried forward
Unrestricted Funds					
General funds	331,993	738,388	577,826	(206,967)	285,588
Total Unrestricted Funds	331,993	738,388	577,826	(206,967)	285,588
Restricted funds					
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable settlement	64,711	240,782	105,493	-	200,000
The Exilarch's Foundation	29,500	120,000	149,500	-	-
The Band Trust	143,046	-	118	-	142,928
The Hartz Family Foundation	5,821	85,127	90,948	-	-
Other Restricted Funds	209,380	336,497	648,987	206,967	103,857
Four Acre Trust		50,000	50,000	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	452,458	832,406	1,045,046	206,967	446,785
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds					
Michael Gavey Bursary	11,458	250	-	-	11,708
Alexander Eastwood Award	25,014	60	-	-	25,074
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,244	-	-	-	7,244
Total Permanent Endowment Fund	43,716	310	-	-	44,026
Total Funds	828,167	1,571,104	1,622,872	-	776,399

Total restricted and permanent endowment funds totaling £490,811 are represented by cash balances of £490,811.

Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable settlement – restricted to Pinnacle expedition

Band Trust – restricted fund related to relocation to new stores

Hartz Family foundation and Four-Acre trust - restricted to Spring and summer expeditions

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2022****16. Reconciliation of net movements in funds to new cashflow from operating activities**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net (Expenditure)	(51,768)	79,018
Add back depreciation	36,388	29,521
Less interest income shown in investing activities	(1,189)	(80)
(Increase) in debtors	(85,328)	(3,623)
(Decrease) Increase in Creditors	<u>11,895</u>	<u>(29,947)</u>
Net cash used in Operating activities	<u>(90,002)</u>	<u>74,889</u>

17. Related party transactions

There are no other related party transactions during the year.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 802196

Accounts



BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital

Registered charity Number: 802196

Company Number: 2411786

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021**

“I learnt resilience and kindness. Throughout the expedition, we've had our unusual challenges but together we managed to come back stronger than before and more united.”



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COMPANY INFORMATION

Reference and administrative information

President	Marvin Rees
Members of the 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)
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary	Honor Wilson-Fletcher (Responsible for day-to-day management)
Charity Registration Number	802196
Company Number	2411786 (England and Wales)
Registered Office and Principal Address	1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR e-mail: info@britishexploring.org www.britishexploring.org
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Charing Cross London SW1A 2DX
Auditor	Kreston Reeves LLP 2 nd Floor 168 Shoreditch High Street London E1 6RA

The Council presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

An introduction from our Chair, Ian Maginnis

2021 was another challenging year for British Exploring Society, but I am very pleased to say that 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.

We made the difficult decision to stop all of our overseas expeditions early in the year, and focused on the UK, running five expeditions in the Scottish Highlands. This was a tremendous achievement, given the constantly changing COVID-19 rules, and would not have been possible without the commitment, resilience and flexibility of our staff team and volunteer leaders. As well as running expeditions in the field, we also continued to grow our virtual adventure programme - 'Wildestan' - and our expedition workshops.

In November, I was privileged to attend 'Next Steps', where the young people who have been on our expeditions come back together to reflect on what they learnt and think about their goals for the future. Welcoming them as new members of the Society, was a very moving and uplifting experience for me. Many of the young people we work with have very challenging lives: hearing them talk about their expedition experience, and the difference it made to them, really brought home how important and good what we do is.

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. What has changed is that we now work with a much more diverse group of young people, enabled by totally new ways of working, such as fundraising and partnerships.

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, and take it further. Central to the strategy is sustainability: sustainability in terms of our

purpose, sustainability in terms of our people, and sustainability in terms of the planet. The strategy will be launched next year – our 90th birthday year – and I hope it will set us up to be relevant and successful for another 90 years.

I look forward to making further progress in 2022. We plan to work with greater numbers of young people, and – pandemic permitting – a return to overseas expeditions. We will also celebrate our 90th birthday, and launch the strategy which will take us to our 100th birthday and beyond. The British Exploring Society community makes this all possible: our staff, volunteer leaders, sponsors, partners and members. On behalf of Council, I thank everyone in our community for their commitment and support.

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.”

In 2021 we provided benefits through our programmes to 495 young people (229 in 2020) and 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

Everything we did this year was informed or filtered by the effects, opportunities, and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The whole British Exploring Society community, from Explorers and their families to donors, Leaders, and office staff, was beset with uncertainty, regulatory change, shifting attitudes and moving goalposts throughout the Spring and Summer of 2021.

In addition to our commitment to delivery against this challenging backdrop, we were determined to understand how we might provide new touchpoints for young people unable to access the wilderness, to sustain relationships with those whose expeditions had been cancelled because of the pandemic, and to see if we could develop a ‘flightpath’ for those young people who might need a more gradual progression onto a full expedition. In 2021 we are therefore pleased that:

- 13 Young Adventurers from Wildestan went on to join us on an expedition
- 9 young people who participated in an Expedition Workshop joined us on an expedition
- 11 Young Explorers who were confirmed for a 2020 expedition deferred their place and joined us in the Highlands of Scotland – and a further group are in the process of signing up for an expedition with us in 2022.

The polarising effect of the pandemic meant that some young people could not wait to join us and do something different. Others found the process daunting and were reluctant to leave the safety of family and homes. High levels of anxiety were felt by families leading up to the departure of our programmes and guardians needed more support than in previous years. 16% of Young Explorers withdrew in the 4 weeks before training and our expedition programmes started. This is significantly higher than previous years.

But Explorer feedback across our programmes remained resoundingly positive. 72% of Young Explorers who completed the My Compass tool stated that they felt they had increased their confidence through the programme, believing in their ability and skills. In some cases, young people also explicitly articulated the value of an expeditionary experience after having spent so many months in lockdown, and with limited opportunities for outdoor activities or social interaction.

2021 was the final year of our five-year strategy Advance and Ascend, and of its revised iterations, Firm Footing and On Track. Whilst scrutinising our performance for this year, we are looking ahead to our 90th and 100th birthdays and considering how the evidence it provides of our strengths and areas for development should inform our future plans. We are pleased that we will be supported in the development of our 10 year strategy, by global consulting firm Bain, through our partnership with the Social Business Trust.

The impact of COVID-19 on our work was manifest in many ways - positive and negative. This year has demonstrated the commitment of all involved who continued to push forward despite the challenges - and is a testament to their faith in the work that we do, to the progress made through Advance and Ascend, and to the strength of the charity’s clarity of purpose.

A reminder - Who we are, and what we do – our Charitable Object and Activities

The object of the charity is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the

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.

development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

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.

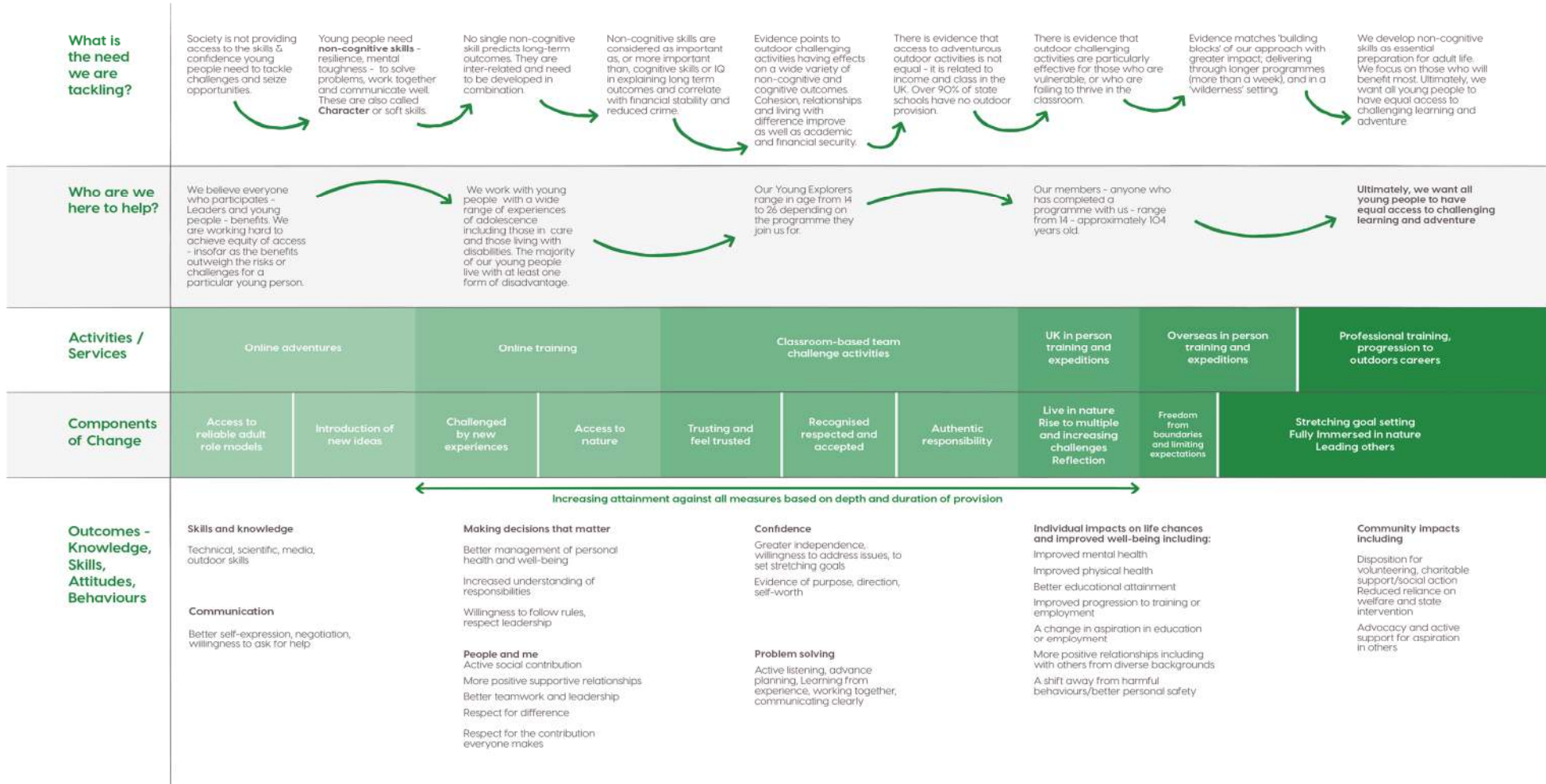
More than this, through their adventure together, our young people forge friendships for life and become part of a unique supportive and continuing community of explorers with shared experiences, values and perspectives on the world.

Our focus is on responsive, small-scale, high-impact, long lasting work with those who can benefit most.

Our effectiveness comes from enduring expertise developed over 89 years and from a commitment to learn from every programme we deliver.

Our scale comes from the life-long community and economic contribution of our members; from the social action and volunteering which participants undertake as part of their programme with us; from our growing understanding of how to provide more support; from delivering more touch points to support young people on their journey with us.

THEORY OF CHANGE



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."

The main beneficiaries of the charity's work are young people between the ages of 14 and 26. 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.

Many young people are introduced to us by trusted partners who also continue to offer support throughout the time the young people they recommend spend with us. 58% of our Young Explorers in 2021 reside in areas of deprivation. 47% of the 58% reside in areas of the highest levels of deprivation in England. The Indices data we use excludes Scotland - the % of deprivation we declared in 2021 would be higher if Scottish postcodes were included.

As we work with more potentially vulnerable groups of young people we are recruiting more Social Leaders and expanding training to incorporate longer residentials. Significantly more than half of the leader training programme now relates directly to safeguarding, wellbeing, behavioural management or supervision of young people. In 2021 Leaders, for example, were required to complete an externally validated 3-hour online course in Mental Health First Aid.

"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."

57% of Young Explorers came through our network of schools, youth organisations and partnerships. In 2021 Some of these organisations were not necessarily partners but are part of our wider network and work with young people in different settings.

The number of young people that find us through family and friends remains consistently high, with nearly 20% coming through this pathway this year.

Adventure

We work in some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness areas in the UK and elsewhere on the planet. Teams (young people and Leaders together) design their own adventures, agreeing between them what and where they want to explore. 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. In Wildestan, our virtual destination, Leaders introduce elements of the wilderness to young people, who can contribute to each live adventure from wherever they log on. Through Expedition Workshops young people are introduced to the challenges and benefits of the expedition learning journey as groups, in the classroom.

Knowledge

The programmes provided by British Exploring Society offer a rare opportunity for learning. From basecamp management, night navigation, knot-tying, wild cooking, First-Aid, 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 community and the world around them. This fuels an appetite to explore the outdoors further and informs their actions and choices in the future. Through Wildestan and half-day Expedition Workshops we provide first encounters with some of those valuable learning opportunities from a variety of more accessible settings.

Personal Development

Expedition Leaders and Experts provide Explorers and Adventurers with new and transformative role models for adulthood and access to endless new knowledge and ideas. Whilst not peers, Leaders and Experts are not teachers or parents either. They offer young people a greater degree of control and autonomy around the way they engage, the choices they make and the impact of those choices than may be possible in other environments. The decisions young people make on our adventures and expeditions impact on others. They will have many chances to lead. Every young person will help shape their adventure or expedition. Trained in supporting reflection, Leaders and Experts encourage young people to think about their own learning journeys. They will help them identify their strengths, build on them, and work with them to set ambitious personal targets for the future.

“I am capable of doing so much more than I thought I was mentally and physically capable of, and it has left me feeling so confident and proud of my abilities and achievements.”

Digital in the Wilderness

2021 was our first year for our Digital in the Wilderness strategy. In previous years Explorers had not been permitted to have or carry mobile devices. This has been moderated to a more developmental approach – enabling and encouraging young people to develop strategies to help them manage their relationships with their devices and with people at home.

Feedback from Young Explorers is remarkably positive. When asked in their post expedition survey 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. Leader feedback was more mixed, but overall, the new approach appears to be a step in the right direction.

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.

The value of volunteering

Volunteering is the backbone of British Exploring Society and its community. The impact of professional volunteering explicitly and implicitly supports the delivery of key outcomes for the charity. The charity has thrived – and depended- on the support and contribution of professional volunteers on its programmes, and in making back-office delivery possible.

Volunteers support us to design new programmes in new locations, challenge us and help us to modernise and change and provide the knowledge behind the adventure, science and creative experiences that define our programmes.

One of the ways in which the charity expresses the benefit and significant contribution of volunteers is as a charitable donation of professional hours (2021 £127,610, 2020: £20,296). The increase in the recorded levels of volunteer contribution this year is driven by our return to running expeditions in the wilderness. The volunteers who donate their time each year to take part in programmes are vital to our charitable purpose.

23 volunteer professional Leaders and Experts prepared for and delivered our Wildestan Adventures and Expedition and a further 39 participated in induction and training in preparation for programmes in 2021.

We are working to find new ways for committed volunteers who cannot give up 4-6 weeks of their time over a summer but still want to support us to share their skills with us.

In 2021 94% of our Leaders agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend British Exploring Society to a friend or colleague.

Our partners

The pandemic directly impacted recruitment timelines and our partner relationships. Partners advised us that it was challenging to engage with young people. Our school partnerships struggled with capacity which meant it was harder to recruit. Relationships with partners went one of two ways; they either decided that the risk of committing and managing the expectations of young people was too great and withdrew for 2021 or decided to commit as they deemed the potential benefit to their young people outweighed the risks. 57% of young people - lower than in previous years (70% in 2019) – came to us through partnerships across all our programmes.

2021 saw the development of new partnerships with referring organisations. These ranged from youth services providers and schools referring one or two young people, to larger scale more strategic partnerships including the Aldridge Foundation and OnSide Youth Zones.

Partnership working helped us reach and support more marginalised groups. Our pastoral care roles in 2021 were in part filled by staff seconded from referring partner organisations including Walsall Academy and OnSide Youth Zones.

Performance

We believe that young people need the right skills, behaviours, and confidence to tackle contemporary challenges and opportunities. In assessing impact, we consider our success in supporting young people to acquire these skills, behaviour, and confidence through our programmes.

Our Impact

We focused this year on broadening our evidence base, and on making it easier for our young people and other stakeholders to communicate the value of their experience with us in different forms. The combination of quantitative and qualitative evidence gives us a more complete narrative of the difference our programmes make.

“Whilst my time on expedition was challenging, emotionally and physically, it was the 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.”

The impact of our work is always set against the backdrop of considerable change in young peoples’ lives and this year - whilst difficult to quantify – we must also consider the potentially significant effect the pandemic had on the mental well-being of many of the young people we work with.

We benefitted from nearly 500 pieces of evidence from:

- Wildestan Adventure post session polls
- Young Explorer post-expedition surveys

- the My compass tool
- the Short Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale
- Real Life Stories.

Outcomes of My Compass – across all expedition programmes

‘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.’

The following data shows average scores before and after expedition across all programmes. The greatest quantitative increases were shown in Confidence, Managing my feelings, Problem Solving, People and me and the World and me.

All Expeditions	Making decisions that matter	Managing my feelings	Staying on track	Communication	Problem Solving	People and me	Confidence	The world and me
Before	3.57	3.41	3.44	3.63	3.52	3.53	3.31	3.60
After	4.29	4.18	4.06	4.32	4.30	4.28	4.27	4.34
Interval	0.72	0.77	0.62	0.69	0.77	0.74	0.96	0.74

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 Warwick–Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

The Short Scale Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Health Well-being Scale (SWEMWBS) was designed by NHS Health Scotland, University of Warwick and University of Edinburgh. The Hartz Scottish Explorers programme completed the SWEMWBS. Results show that the biggest changes Young Explorers felt from the beginning to the end of the programme were in how they felt about being useful and feeling close to people.

	I've been feeling optimistic about the future	I've been feeling useful	I've been feeling relaxed	I've been dealing with problems well	I've been thinking clearly	I've been feeling close to other people	I've been able to make up my own mind about things
Start of expedition	3.78	3.45	3.52	3.63	3.68	3.60	3.98
End of expedition	4.08	4.15	3.85	4.02	4.02	4.32	4.17
Interval	0.29	0.70	0.33	0.39	0.34	0.72	0.19

Socio-economic/demographic data

Young people were asked varying details about their socio-economic circumstances across our programmes. Due to the light touch nature of Wildestan and Exhibition Workshops, no data/limited data has been collated.

“My experience was even better than I had anticipated. Not only did I learn new practical skills in canoeing, hiking and navigation but also had the opportunity to undergo significant personal development through working with other Young Explorers to help them develop their skills, allowing me to advance my leadership skills. I went out hoping to understand my career direction, and was able to make progress with this, as well as to overcome personal challenges such as the anxiety I sometimes face. Whilst on expedition, this completely dissipated, which was very telling for me and is something I will continue to reflect on.”

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 Wildestan Adventures, 14 Young Explorers participating in training for the Pinnacle expedition and 143 young people joining us on an expedition.

Of those that completed the equal opportunities form, there was a near equal split between those who identified as female and those who identified as male. 1 Explorer identified as non binary, and 2 opted not to say.

23% of Young Explorers who completed the forms identified as coming from ethnic minority backgrounds

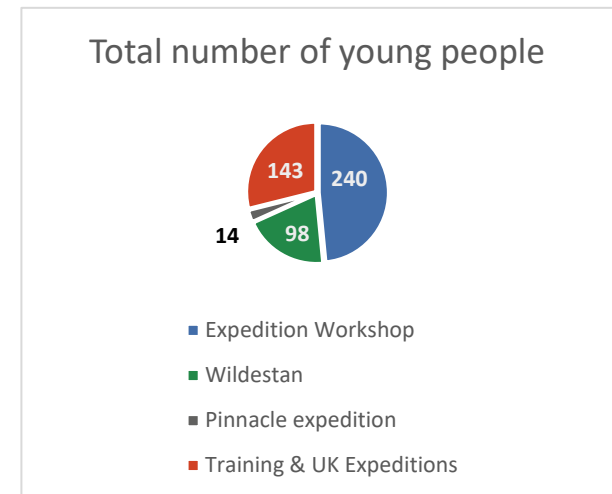
17% Young Explorers declared that they had a disability or long-term health condition

15% Young Explorers were flagged to the Leadership team as potentially needing additional support

67% of Young Explorers who had Fundraising Targets had a total household income of below £40,000

74% of Young Explorers who joined the Hartz 1 and 2 programmes declared a household income less than £40,000

58% of our Young Explorers reside in areas of deprivation. 47% of the 58% reside in areas of the highest levels of deprivation in England.



“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.”

Programmes and core activities in 2020/21

We delivered 5 full scale UK programmes which culminated in expeditions in the summer of 2021 at 3 different base camps in Scotland:

“My personal experience of the trip was amazing. I didn't feel that way during the trip as I was struggling quite a lot but I appreciated it more and more as the days went by. The memories with new friends helped push through the challenges and the memories will always stick with me.”

Dangoor Next Generation Scotland

27 young people. Basecamp was on the Atholl Estate outside of Blair Atholl. This land-based expedition included 1000m peaks, craggy summits, bogs, crags, screes and boulder fields, recreational wild swimming, and wild camping.

All of the young people who joined us on the programme came through our partnership with Aldridge Foundation. 100% of the Young Explorers who joined the programme reside in areas of deprivation. 93% of the young people 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. 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.

Hartz Scottish Explorers 1 and Hartz Scottish Explorers 2

28 young people, 34 young people Both these large expeditions were based nearby from Spean Bridge in Scotland, delivered with the assistance of Venture Trust, with access to the hills of the Grampian Mountains. Inish basecamp was our home, adjacent to Inish cottage. The expedition was land-based, and offered adventure around a landscape of bogs, forested areas, a network of waterways, steep ground, crags, screes and boulder fields. 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. There was a specific focus on partnership with the first expedition having 71% of young people coming through Walsall Academy and Onside Youth Zones.

“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.”

Landmark Scotland 2021 x 2

29 young people, 25 young people. This double expedition was delivered from a base in Ardtalnaig, on the banks of Loch Tay. This was a multidisciplinary programme, offering the chance for canoeing, and for trekking in the hills around the loch. The area is blessed with mountainous terrain and summits up to 1200m, bog, crags, boulder fields, forest areas, a network of waterways, a large inland loch with small islands and opportunities for recreational wild swimming. We have not worked from Loch Tay for a few years, and it was a great pleasure to return there.

We also delivered expedition/experiential learning experiences in a variety of settings through Wildestan Adventures, a Wildestan Expedition, and Expedition Workshops.

Wildestan Adventures

We had 419 attendances across 2 seasons of Wildestan adventures in 2021

13 Wildestan Adventurers progressed to expedition with us in 2021.

60% of Young Adventurers in 2021 were aged 18 to 25 and 35% 14 to 18.

Each live, interactive virtual adventure was hosted by one of our professional Leaders, called an Expert, and was themed around – and where possible delivered in –the wilderness. We have used as much as we can of the same mix of Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development as we have used in the wilderness for nearly a century to engage young people in lively activities - but using only ‘kit’ found in the home.

We delivered 26 Wildestan Adventures in 2021. They included:

- Interpreting signs in the wild
- Survival in the wild jungle
- What lurks in the leaves
- How to find a lost glove
- Fantastic birds and where to find them

- Explore within
- Woodland trees
- Fish and chips gone wild
- 88.5% of Young Adventurers agreed or strongly agreed their adventure helped them think about solving new problems and how they can fix them with resources they have.
- 84.5% agreed or strongly agreed that taking part in their adventure had helped them understand the importance of good decision making.
- 80.5% agreed or strongly agreed their adventure helped them think about their impact on the world and people and changes they can make for the better.
- 92% agreed or strongly agreed they could share ideas, explain their questions, and listen to others.
- 98% of Young Adventures agreed or strongly agreed that they felt comfortable and safe taking part in their online session.
- 91.5% agreed or strongly agreed they could contribute and were an active part of their adventure.

Wildestan Adventures will be subject to regular review and likely adaptation in delivery but will remain a core part of our programme.

Wildestan Expedition - Think Global, Act Local 2021

In addition to our Adventures, we wanted to provide a sustained experience in Wildestan, as we continued to be unable to access the outdoors in the UK during the pandemic. Over the Spring half term, we delivered our second Wildestan Expedition.

5 consecutive days of live, online, interactive Wildestan workshops with the same cohort were led by different Experts, but with a united theme. This second Wildestan Expedition intended to help young people gain greater knowledge of the natural world, how to take care of it and to raise awareness of local and global issues in relation to the natural world. Sessions included:

- Mapping my Wildestan
- BioBlitz
- there is no Planet B
- Be the Change
- Recording your journey
- 85% of Young Adventurers agreed or strongly agreed their adventure helped them think about solving new problems and how they can fix them with resources they have.

- 87% agreed or strongly agreed that taking part in their adventure had helped them understand the importance of good decision making.
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed their adventure helped them think about their impact on the world and people and changes they can make for the better.
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed they could share ideas, explain their questions, and listen to others.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they felt comfortable and safe taking part in their online sessions.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed they could contribute and were an active part of their adventure.

Expedition Workshops June– October 2021

240 young people attended an Expedition Workshop in 2021.

We were only able to deliver workshops during a small period as restrictions lifted on school visits towards the end of the academic year.

Lasting a full morning or afternoon, using ‘real’ resources from our expedition planning processes, we worked with Leaders to design active participation workshops for secondary schools. Our workshops are designed to;

- provide valued content for schools and stand-alone learning for participants
- develop experience in decision-making under pressure and support strategies for positive well-being for young people
- present new and relatable adult role-models to young people
- dispel myths -about fitness, money, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration
- have fun and show learning in a new, exciting context, treating our audience as adults, as we do on our programmes.

Young people are asked after each Expedition Workshop to provide feedback on what they had learnt, what they enjoyed and what they would change:

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”.

I enjoyed how all the activities that we did were fun. I’ve learnt new facts about the rainforest and the equipment you need to bring. I would like to learn more about the environment there”.

I have learnt that your team is who you have to rely on. I have enjoyed the debating over the situations. I would like to know how to handle the local wildlife”.

I enjoyed learning about how to survive in the rainforest and the supplies you need to take.”

Pinnacle Expedition (training throughout 2021 – departs February 2022)

14 young people and 5 Leaders were recruited and then took part in extensive engagement and on-line training sessions in preparation for our first expedition to Lake Baikal in Siberia. This programme, generously supported by Sandy and Zorica Glen, has now been postponed to February 2022, but we will continue to provide training and support for all those already signed up for the expedition. 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.

Firesides/Webinars

We continued to host Fireside conversations and online events during 2021.

These events help us raise funds, awareness of our work and provide opportunities to introduce new potential members to our community. Firesides follow the general themes of adventure, personal development and fair access. We invite young people to attend these events where possible.

We also hosted an entirely virtual Celebration Evening in March 2021, co-hosted by British Exploring Society Fellow, Ben Saunders.

Our Fireside guests in 2021 been:

- Ben Saunders and Robert Swann; **Where do we go from here**
- Cathy O’Dowd and Aaron Phipps; **Access All Areas**
- Our second president’s address with Marvin Rees; **Our path to resilience**

Our on-line events in 2021 have had a particular emphasis on the themes of sustainability and inclusion.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 34.

2020/21 has been a challenging year for British Exploring Society. 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. This, combined with the decision to go ahead with a double Landmark expedition to support our charitable purpose despite funding only being partly in place has resulted in an in-year deficit. On the other hand, restricted funding has grown this year in part due to a large donation from The Band Trust relating to relocation of our stores, which remained unspent at the year end. In addition, various restricted donations for expeditions which could not proceed due to the pandemic remain unused at the year end. In such instances, funding has been carried forward in restricted reserves and the expectation is that such funding will be fully utilised in the next financial 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.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2021 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 34 of these financial statements. Expenditure incurred on programmes that will take place after 31 October 2021 has been carried forward as prepayments, as can be seen in note 8 to these accounts. Deferred income relating to our Trainee Leader programme can be seen in note 9.

Investment Policy and Performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is implemented in concert with other governance and financial controls, and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. 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.

Structure, Governance and Management

Our Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its charitable purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory regulation, financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with. The executive team under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance against all agreed performance indicators. The responsibility for all activities towards the achievement of the charity's charitable purpose which take place overseas during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

The charity employs 13 full-time and 5 part-time employees who manage the direction and day-to-day administration of the charity. Many volunteers, who offer their services either regularly or on an ad hoc basis, assist both Council and staff. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity as a donation.

Members of Council meet in person or remotely regularly, either at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of meetings of sub-committees, to manage its affairs. Individual Council members additionally dedicate their time to oversee specific areas of activity to support the executive staff team.

Council from time to time also appoints Advisors to the Board. These are individuals with expertise in areas of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association which were updated in 2017 at its AGM.

Members of Council, listed on page 3, are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of the Council are appointed at Council or at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company.

The Council is entitled to propose candidates for election to Council and to appoint additional members of Council. New members of Council are recruited to the Council of British Exploring Society by application. Their application must be proposed and seconded by current members of the charity and, in the case of competition for places on the Council, whose numbers are limited, members must be voted in by a quorum of the members of the charity. In selecting new members of Council, consideration is given to the specific contribution that they can make to the Council and the charity. A regular skills and training audit is undertaken to ensure that appointments to Council reflect the strategic priorities of the charity.

Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council and is kept under annual review. Several criteria are used in setting pay:

- Nature of the role and responsibilities;
- The sector-average salary for comparable positions;
- General trends in pay

Policies

The following is a list of current British Exploring 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
- Reserves Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Safe Operations Policy
- Safeguarding Policy & Procedures
- Visitors Policy
- Take Down Policy

Approach to Managing Risk

The charity must manage two categories of risk: those to itself and those to the Leaders and young people who participate on its programmes in wild and remote areas. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance on a dynamic, case-by-case basis. Effective governance and oversight of risk provide assurance that British Exploring Society's activities will not be adversely affected by predictable risks, which in turn reduces the likelihood of not achieving its strategy.

Council members and the Chief Executive's senior leadership team identify risks to British Exploring Society. The major risks are documented, monitored by the senior leadership team on a continuous basis, and reviewed at each Council meeting. An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive team in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Areas affected by risk include programmes, finances, governance, operations, insurance, compliance with law and regulation, and external perceptions and relationships.

Programme risk management process

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing expeditions and programmes and their associated risks. On expedition, this is delegated to Chief Leaders, who as agents of the charity are responsible for the system.

This system includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs). These cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme or an expedition and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and Experts including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which an expedition may be exposed.

SOPs are reviewed by the British Exploring Society senior leadership team, technical advisors, and by Council. They are updated in the light of practical experience and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are also subject to interrogation against questions and challenges generated through a targeted desk-based process of research which considers environmental, political and other risks which we may not have been previously encountered in the field.

Expedition Leadership

An experienced, capable Chief Leader is the bedrock upon which a safe, well-managed expedition is founded. The Chief Executive, Head of Expeditions and/or Expeditions Manager question each candidate Chief Leader at length and satisfy themselves about their abilities and experience before appointment. The British Exploring Society executive team reserves the right to require a Chief Leader to stand down from expedition leadership at any point if they have reason to believe that the individual can no longer effectively manage dynamic risk assessment in the field or support the delivery of wider charitable objectives to the appropriate standard.

The responsibility for selecting and developing a strong, cohesive expedition leadership team which understands the ethos and expectations of British Exploring Society, rests with the Chief Leader, Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, and is overseen by the Chief Executive who reports to Council. Each Chief Leader works closely with the British Exploring Society office throughout the planning process. They assess the risks relevant to the programme objectives, client group and environment, and, following the relevant operating procedures, develop a comprehensive set of plans including for communications, major incidents, and medical emergencies. The nominated expedition lead at British Exploring Society reviews the risk assessment, itinerary and plans.

Before each expedition or new programme, Explorers, Leaders and Experts are trained to identify and manage risks.

At the start of an expedition, further training is given. A Chief Leader, liaising with the British Exploring Society office in London, will adapt their expedition's plans, risk assessment and control measures to suit the circumstances in the field at the time.

Programme risk management oversight

Council members monitor the operation of processes and review the Chief Executive's assessment of each expedition or programmes readiness to commence before authorisation. This is usually delegated to the Operations Committee. From time-to-time council members attend training and may spend time in the field. Council reviews post-expedition reports and performance data and any remedial actions to be incorporated into future planning. This ensures that the charity's system for identifying and managing risks to Leaders and participants on its expeditions - and to the charity itself is relevant, robust and transparent.

The charity is a member of the Expedition Providers' Association. Learning Outside the Classroom, its accrediting body, assesses the following areas to seek assurance about expedition risk:

- British Exploring Society standard operating procedures and the risk management process itself;
- The expeditions/operations team ensuring that these are effected;
- The CEO as risk manager;
- The team of technical advisors who support British Exploring Society in the design of policies, procedures, individual expeditions and mitigation of risk;
- Chief Leaders as agents in the field;
- Compliance with British Standard 8848, which includes external assessment by AAA; and
- Nominated members of Council monitoring all stages of an expedition and investigating detail when appropriate.

British Exploring Society's Council is satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2021.

Financial Risk

Financial risk represents the risk to the charity of having insufficient funds to carry out its committed charitable activities, due to over-reaching in planning such activities, insufficient fund-raising or general poor management or funds and expenses. Council mitigates such financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee of Council chaired by the Treasurer, which meets approximately two weeks before every Council meeting. Executive finance officers present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review and cross-checking by the sub-committee before such information can be submitted to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. The finance sub-committee is given delegated authority to manage the deposits and investments of the Society. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually.

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

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 26, 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.

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of Council are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the Auditor

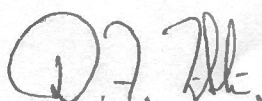
So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the auditors are aware of that information.

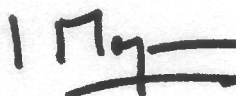
Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on 2nd February 2022 and signed on behalf of the Council by:



David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Exploring Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 October 2021 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 October 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statement is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report on this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken during the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustee's report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 26, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charity and sector, and through discussion with the trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risk was related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase income or reduce expenditure. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud, and review of the reports made by management; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant regulatory authorities; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for

financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to

anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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
Date 2 February 2022

Kreston Reeves LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Income		£	£		£	£
Donations	2	549,313	125,210	125	674,648	1,018,742
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>						
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		<u>549,912</u>	<u>705,325</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,255,362</u>	<u>1,276,453</u>
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		<u>667,322</u>	<u>509,022</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,176,344</u>	<u>904,881</u>
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	<u>331,993</u>	<u>452,458</u>	<u>43,716</u>	<u>828,167</u>	<u>749,149</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

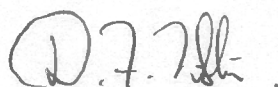
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£		£	£
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>						
Tangible assets	7	76,536	-	-	76,536	74,548
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		76,536	-	-	76,536	74,548
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
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

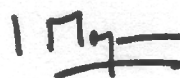
The notes on page 37 to 50 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 2nd February 2022 and signed on behalf of Council by:



David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2021**

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Net cash used in operating activities	16	<u>74,889</u>	<u>355,849</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest		80	914
Purchase of assets		(31,509)	(36,848)
Transfer of cash from investments		-	-
Net cash flow by investing activities		<u>(31,429)</u>	<u>(35,934)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>43,460</u>	<u>319,915</u>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>690,980</u>	<u>371,065</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>734,440</u>	<u>690,980</u>

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

British Exploring Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Trainee Leader contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Donations in kind or by way of donated equipment are accounted for on receipt, at the estimated value. Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on receipt by the charity and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Recognition of donated services

Donated services are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services are recognised on the basis of the value of the voluntary time contribution to the organisation, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Cost of expeditions	95%
Management and administration of the charity	5%

1.5 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.6 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

Expedition equipment	between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis
Office equipment and computers	25% straight line basis

Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes:-

- **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.
- **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.11 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.13 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were no accruals or prepayments (2020: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2021 amount to £17,339 (2020: £15,552).

1.14 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.15 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the members of Council believe that no material uncertainties exist. Members of the Council have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the 12 months from authorising these financial statements in the light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2021****2. Income from donations**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash donations	546,913	-	125	547,038	998,446
Donated services	2,400	125,210	-	127,610	20,296
	<u>549,313</u>	<u>125,210</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>674,648</u>	<u>1,018,742</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Cash donations	998,321	-	125	998,446
Donated services	17,597	2,699	-	20,296
	<u>1,015,918</u>	<u>2,699</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,018,742</u>

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	-	580,115	-	580,115	149,291

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	9,617	139,674	-	149,291

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

4. Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable on cash deposits	80	-	-	80	914
	<u>80</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>914</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable on cash deposits	914	-	-	914
	<u>914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>914</u>

5. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Insurance pay-out	-	-	-	-	107,446
Miscellaneous receipts	519	-	-	519	60
	<u>519</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>107,506</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Insurance pay-out	107,446	-	-	107,446
Miscellaneous receipts	60	-	-	60
	<u>107,506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,506</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>					
Total expedition costs	110,486	221,983	-	332,469	243,469
Donated services	2,400	125,210	-	127,610	20,296
Salary costs *	470,394	159,224	-	629,618	565,947
Depreciation	4,680	-	-	4,680	3,299
Total cost of expeditions	587,960	506,417	-	1,094,377	833,011
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Salary costs	33,138	-	-	33,138	29,787
Office costs	7,602	-	-	7,602	5,391
Auditors fees	6,150	-	-	6,150	5,150
Depreciation	24,841	-	-	24,841	22,868
Total governance costs	71,731	-	-	71,731	63,196
Grants awarded to individuals	-	2,605	-	2,605	2,994
Total cost of charitable activities	659,691	509,022	-	1,168,713	899,201

* Increase in salary costs due to continuing investment in our fundraising team. All our expeditions (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders) are now free, or fully funded for our participants.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2021****Charitable activities (cont.)**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>				
Total expedition costs	199,599	43,870	-	243,469
Donated services	17,597	2,699	-	20,296
Salary costs	565,947	-	-	565,947
Depreciation	3,299	-	-	3,299
Total cost of expeditions	786,442	46,569	-	833,011
<i>Governance costs</i>				
Salary costs	29,787	-	-	29,787
Office costs	5,391	-	-	5,391
Auditors fees	5,150	-	-	5,150
Depreciation	22,868	-	-	22,868
Total governance costs	63,196	-	-	63,196
Grants awarded to individuals	-	2,994	-	2,994
Total cost of charitable activities	849,638	49,563	-	899,201

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2021****7. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Expedition equipment	Office equipment & computers	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 November 2020	226,847	146,159	373,006
Additions	18,689	12,820	31,509
At 31 October 2021	<u>245,536</u>	<u>158,979</u>	<u>404,515</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 November 2020	221,589	76,869	298,458
Provided in the year	4,680	24,841	29,521
At 31 October 2021	<u>226,269</u>	<u>101,710</u>	<u>327,979</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2021	<u>19,267</u>	<u>57,269</u>	<u>76,536</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2020	<u>5,258</u>	<u>69,290</u>	<u>74,548</u>

All fixed assets are used for the direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

8. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	15,950	8,336
Prepayments & accrued income	70,917	74,908
	<u>86,867</u>	<u>83,244</u>

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	28,993	73,617
Other creditors	6,528	5,150
Expedition contributions received in advance	10,540	-
Social security and other taxes	17,465	15,706
Accruals	6,150	5,150
	<u>69,676</u>	<u>99,623</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

10. Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2022 expeditions.

	£	
Balance as at 1 November 2020	-	
Amount released to income from charitable activities	-	
Amount deferred in the year *	10,540	
	<u>10,540</u>	

* Due to a change in the funding model of expeditions, all our programmes (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders) will be free, or fully funded for our participants.

11. Other financial commitments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable rental leases are as follows:		
- within one year	15,381	14,649
- within two to five years	-	15,381
	<u>15,381</u>	<u>30,030</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

12. Staff Costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff wages and salaries	589,375	530,221
Social security costs	56,042	49,961
Other Pension costs	17,339	15,552
	<u>662,756</u>	<u>595,734</u>
	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Full Time Employees	13	12
Part Time Employees	5	5
Total number of employees	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>

1 Staff member received benefits above £60,000. The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) was £60,000 or more was:

	2021	2020
£90,001 to £100,000	1	1

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefits in kind in the year. No members of Council received expenses relating to travel and subsistence, and staff entertaining (2020: nil).

British Exploring Society considers its key management personnel comprise Council members and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits paid to key management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £102,999 (2020: £102,999).

The charity paid £2,199 (2020: £2,199) for Trustees' indemnity insurance.

13. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2021****14. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	76,536	-	-	76,536
Debtors	86,867	-	-	86,867
Cash at bank and in hand	238,266	452,458	43,716	734,440
Creditors: due within one year	(69,676)	-	-	(69,676)
	<u>331,993</u>	<u>452,458</u>	<u>43,716</u>	<u>828,167</u>

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	74,548	-	-	74,548
Debtors	82,119	1,125	-	83,244
Cash at bank and in hand	392,359	253,030	45,591	690,980
Creditors: due within one year	(99,623)	-	-	(99,623)
	<u>449,403</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>749,149</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

15. Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources

2021	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	449,403	549,912	667,322	-	331,993
Total Unrestricted Funds	449,403	549,912	667,322	-	331,993
Restricted Funds					
The Portal Trust	40,000	-	40,000	-	-
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	61,429	11,250	7,968	-	64,711
The Exilarch's Foundation	9,500	120,000	100,000	-	29,500
The Band Trust	-	150,000	6,954	-	143,046
The Hartz Family Foundation	-	160,842	155,021	-	5,821
Other Restricted Funds	143,226	263,233	199,079	2,000	209,380
Total Restricted Funds	254,155	705,325	509,022	2,000	452,458
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds					
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,393	65	-	-	11,458
Alexander Eastwood Award	27,014	-	-	(2,000)	25,014
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,184	60	-	-	7,244
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	45,591	125	-	(2,000)	43,716
Total Funds	749,149	1,255,362	1,176,344	-	828,167

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £496,174 (2020: £299,746) are represented by cash balances of £496,174 held within Cash at Bank. Further detail relating to the fund structure is provided in the accounting policies note (page 39, note 1.10).

The Portal Trust - Restricted Funds for Landmark 2021.

Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement - Restricted Funds for Pinnacle 2022.

The Exilarch's Foundation - Restricted Income and Expenditure relating to Dangoor Next Generation Expedition 2021. Unused funding carried forward to future expeditions.

The Band Trust – Restricted Income and Expenditure relating to relocation of our stores. Project is ongoing with funding to be utilised in 2021/22.

Hartz Family Foundation – Restricted funding for Hartz Scottish Explorers expeditions.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2021****Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources (cont.)**

2020	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	171,766	1,133,955	855,318	(1,000)	449,403
Total Unrestricted Funds	171,766	1,133,955	855,318	(1,000)	449,403
Restricted Funds					
The Portal Trust	-	40,000	-	-	40,000
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	53,929	7,500	-	-	61,429
The Exilarch's Foundation	9,500	40,349	40,349	-	9,500
Other Restricted Funds	94,916	54,524	9,214	3,000	143,226
Total Restricted Funds	158,345	142,373	49,563	3,000	254,155
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds					
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,328	65	-	-	11,393
Alexander Eastwood Award	29,014	-	-	(2,000)	27,014
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,124	60	-	-	7,184
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	47,466	125	-	(2,000)	45,591
Total Funds	377,577	1,276,453	904,881	-	749,149

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £299,746 are represented by cash balances of £298,621 held within Cash at Bank and debtor balances of £1,125.

The Portal Trust - Restricted Funds for Landmark 2021.

Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement - Restricted Funds for Pinnacle 2022.

The Exilarch's Foundation - Restricted Income and Expenditure relating to DNG Expedition 2020. Legacy funding carried forward to future expeditions.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2021

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net (expenditure)	79,018	371,572
Add back depreciation	29,521	26,167
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(80)	(914)
(Increase) in debtors	(3,623)	49,651
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(29,947)	(90,627)
Net Cash Used in Operating activities	74,889	355,849

17. Related party transactions

Donations amounting to £89,916 were received from Council members (2020: £38,800). There are no other related party transactions during the year (2020: nil).

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

England & Wales - Charity number 802196

Accounts

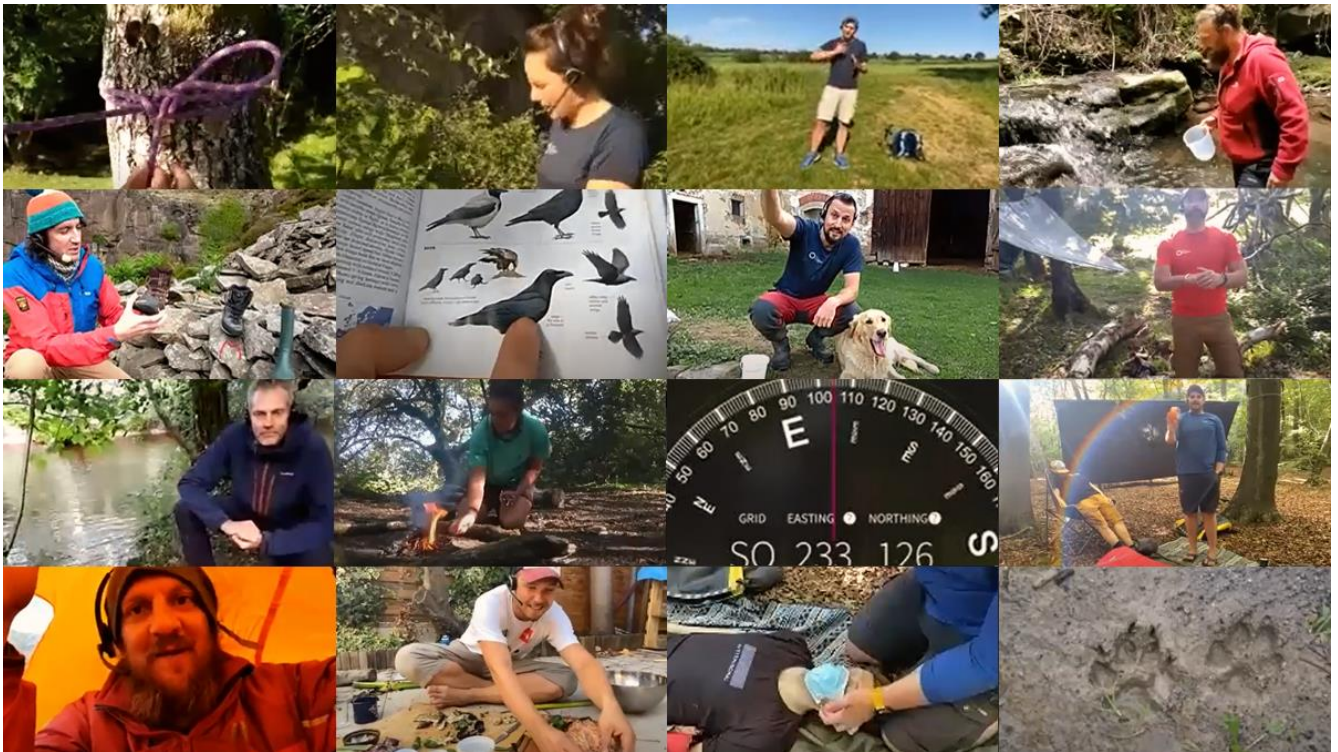
BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital

Registered charity Number: 802196

Company Number: 2411786

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020**



'I believe that my confidence has leaped forward and has encouraged me to explore the wilderness around me.'

Young Adventurer, Wildestan 2020

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BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital

COMPANY INFORMATION

Reference and administrative information

President	Marvin Rees
Members of the Council	Ian Maginnis (Chair) Rupert Eastwood (Treasurer) (Resigned 2 nd April 2020) David Tilston (Treasurer) (Appointed 5 th February 2020) Joanna Wolstenholme (Resigned 2 nd April 2020) Susan Redshaw Jane Park-Weir Rahul Moodgal Carolyn Young Patrick Van Daele David Bartles-Smith (Appointed 2 nd April 2020) Ruth Owen (Appointed 30 th September 2020) Michael Blakey (Resigned 5 th November 2019) Jonathan Gisby (Resigned 1 st November 2019) Douglas Oppenheim (Resigned 1 st November 2019)
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary	Honor Wilson-Fletcher (Responsible for day-to-day management)
Charity Registration Number	802196
Company Number	2411786 (England and Wales)
Registered Office and Principal Address	1 Kensington Gore London SW7 2AR e-mail: info@britishexploring.org www.britishexploring.org
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland plc 49 Charing Cross London SW1A 2DX
Auditor	Kreston Reeves LLP Third Floor 24 Chiswell Street London EC1Y 4YX

The Council presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Charities Act 2011, Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Introduction - About This Year

2020 is only the second time in our history when we have had to cancel all overseas activity – and then all our UK expeditions and training too – both because of the pandemic. Nonetheless, it has been an exciting and uplifting year and we have been able to work with slightly more young people than in 2019. We have learned new skills, discovered new ways to deliver rewarding adventure and challenge, and reaffirmed the capacity of our community to adapt and to be hugely generous. We have been thrilled as ever by the generous feedback and personal stories from the young people we have worked with about the impact of our engagement with them.

The international events and national guidelines imposed this year disrupted our everyday working life, all our normal planning and our approach to youth development. But we were clear about what had not changed: that young people needed – more than ever – engaging access to inspirational leaders, rewarding learning opportunities and a safe environment to meet new people and be excited by the outdoors.

At the beginning of lock-down we confirmed that this year:

- We still wanted young people to be able to acquire practical skills and learn about resilience;
- We still wanted young people to experience a new-found confidence and self-belief to carry forward to their future life;
- We still wanted young people to forge friendships and become part of a supportive and continuing community through our work;
- Spending quality learning time with our unpaid professional leaders was still a critical part of the development experience with us – and we would ensure that this remained central to our work.

We were clear that these were valuable tools to fight the negative social impact of COVID-19 – just as they have helped for years to offset the impact of economic, educational, and societal disadvantage.

We used these ‘headlines’ to quickly develop new programmes which are briefly described in this report. We have delivered positive outcomes for young people this year, particularly through Wildestan. Our staff team and volunteers have remained motivated despite a wide range of challenges. We have stayed focused on our purpose and we have continued to progress our strategy particularly in relation to our systems and fundraising capability. We have protected our financial position and ended the year in a respectable position. We recognise that the next year will also be very challenging. We also recognise with huge gratitude the faith and generosity of our donors in helping us sustain financial stability and continue to serve our communities energetically.

We have strengthened governance to help us deliver our strategic aims. We have 3 new trustees - in particular a Lead Trustee each for Safeguarding and for Mental and Physical Impairment - and we have

sustained our relationship with two skilled retiring trustees with particular expertise in working with vulnerable young people as Board Advisors.

Finally, we sought assessment and received strong external endorsement for our approach to young development. We were awarded the **Charity of Character** Kitemark in 2020. In confirming this award, the Association for Character education advised us that:

Your organisation uses incredible experiential learning to implicitly develop character, while ensuring it is explicitly explored through My Compass and coaching led dialogues...it is apparent that British Exploring Society is taking strategic led action to ensure its offer continues to reach a broader demographic of young people.

Tom Haigh, CEO, Association for Character Education

Strategy Updated - Staying on Track

We will carry forward the huge amount we have learned this year. Necessity has accelerated our progression towards pre-existing key strategic goals. We have established the participant benefit of our rapid response to COVID-19; Wildestan delivers positive outcomes which align well with the rest of our work and with our existing Outcomes tool, My Compass, and will become part of our longer-term offer to young people.

We have reviewed our strategy and produced an update called On Track

We will continue to focus on efficiency and effectiveness and on measurement of impact as our programme model diversifies to meet the needs of young people post-pandemic - and to keep a tight rein on the number of priorities we take on. We need to remain outwardly focused, aware of the on-going unpredictability of the external environment.

We continue to diversify and increase our fundraising capacity

We are changing our approach to delivering and funding our programmes, so we continue to invest in fundraising and in the team delivering our fundraising targets. Our Development Board has transformed its contribution to our fund-raising and now provides a wide arrange of additional forms of advice and pro-bono professional support to the executive team.

Charitable Object and Activities

The object of the charity is to advance the education of young people by providing inspirational and challenging scientific expeditions to remote, wild environments and so promote the development of their confidence, teamwork, leadership and spirit of adventure and exploration.

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.

What is the problem we are tackling?

Society is failing to ensure fair or sufficient access to the skills, behaviours and confidence young people need to tackle contemporary challenges and seize opportunities as they approach adulthood, and throughout adult life. This problem and inequality are becoming more pronounced in the wake of the pandemic. Young people already disadvantaged through a range of factors urgently need to be supported to find the resilience, mental toughness, and the tools to stay motivated in life.

How do we help?

Through our programmes we share our unique mix of adventure, knowledge and personal development with young people who can benefit most. With us, they acquire empowering real-life knowledge, ideas and understanding about the world and we introduce them to different perspectives on the world and their place in it.

What immediate difference do we make?

Our work helps those young people develop greater maturity, sense of purpose and confidence and impacts on their choices and success in education, training and employment.

How we work

Our focus is on responsive, small-scale, high-impact work with those who can benefit most.

Our effectiveness comes from enduring expertise developed over 88 years and from a commitment to learn from every programme we deliver.

Our scale comes from the life-long community and economic contribution of our members and from the social action and volunteering which participants undertake as part of their programme with us.

Our young people increasingly come from trusted partners who introduce us to, and continue to support, young people who most need access to our programmes. The main beneficiaries of the charity's work are young people between the ages of 14 and 26.

Our approach in practice

Working with young people from across the UK, and with Leaders from the UK and abroad, the charity's programmes employ a continuous mix of knowledge, adventure and personal development to inspire young people and help them make the most of their futures.

Adventure

The Society works in some of the most beautiful and remote wilderness areas on the planet. Teams (young people and Leaders together) design their own adventures, agreeing between them what and where they want to explore. 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. In Wildestan, our virtual wilderness, leaders introduce elements of the wilderness to young people, who can in turn contribute to each live adventure from their own homes.

Knowledge

The programmes provided by British Exploring Society offer a rare opportunity for learning. From basecamp management, night navigation, knot-tying, wild cooking, First-Aid, 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 community and the world around them which fuels an appetite to explore the outdoors further and informs their actions and choices in the future.

Personal Development

Working with young people on the cusp of adulthood, expedition Leaders and Experts provide Explorers and Adventurers with new and transformative role models for adulthood and access to endless new knowledge and ideas. Whilst not peers, Leaders and Experts are not teachers or parents either. They offer young people a greater degree of control and autonomy around the way they engage, the choices they make and the impact of those choices than may be possible in other environments. The decisions young people make on our adventures and expeditions impact on others. They will have many chances to lead. Every young person will help shape their adventure or expedition. Trained in supporting reflection, Leaders and Experts encourage young people to think about their own learning journeys. They will help them identify their strengths, build on them, and work with them to set ambitious personal targets for the future.

Who we work with: Our community of Explorers and Adventurers

Our community of Explorers and Adventurers now represents an inclusive and diverse cross section of young people from a wide range of communities and experiences of adolescence. We work with young people in foster care, leaving care, and those living with mental and physical impairment as well as those growing up in communities identified as facing multiple disadvantages.

Financially, we support explorers in different ways. Whereas some expedition places are fully paid for by explorers, others are free to participants if funded through our programmes in partnership, or subsidised using bursaries. Going forward in 2021, all our programmes (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders) will be free, or fully funded for our participants. As part of their commitment to us and to the programme they join, we now 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 expedition.

The commitment everyone makes, and the community they join

Everyone who participates in our programmes agrees to a Code of Ethics and Good Conduct. Everyone who completes a full programme with us becomes a member of British Exploring Society for life. The work of British Exploring Society is transformational for everyone who participates (Leaders and Experts as well as Explorers and Adventurers) and British Exploring Society believes that society benefits considerably, over many years, from the impact of what it does and from the culture and community it fosters.

Who we work with: our Leaders, Experts and volunteers

Volunteering is the backbone of British Exploring Society and at the heart of its ethos. The charity has always depended on the support and contribution of professional volunteers, both on its programmes, and in making back-office delivery possible. In 2020, one of the most challenging years possible for the

young people the charity serves, and for the ‘office’ (now home working) team too, British Exploring Society is more in their debt than ever. Our professional volunteers have risen to the challenge of adapting to new approaches and learning new skills – and helping us to tackle new issues along the way – with consistent energy and optimism. Our Volunteers have supported us to design new programmes, keep our archive going, make governance more professional, help the charity fund-raise, as well as providing the knowledge behind the adventure, science and creative experiences that define our programmes. One of the ways in which the charity expresses the benefit and significant contribution of volunteers is as a charitable donation of professional hours (2020: £20,296 2019: £315,247). The drop in recorded levels of volunteer contribution this year because of the postponement or cancellation of extended overseas or wilderness activity does not reflect a diminution in their commitment or energy. The volunteers who donate their time each year to take part in programmes are vital to the charitable purpose of British Exploring Society - and they have made a critical contribution this year, particularly as Expert presenters for Wildestan.

Who we work with: our partners

Partnership-based recruitment and support for young people is critical to our success. In addition to our enduring relationships with organisations like Catch-22 and Outcomes First Group (previously called the National Fostering Agency) we continue to reach out to ambitious organisations who wish to provide challenging opportunities to young people living with disadvantage, irrespective of size.

In 2020 we worked with 17 schools and 12 other organisations.

Achievements and Performance

Our Impact: Explorer/Adventurer Outcomes

We believe that young people need the right skills, behaviours, and confidence to tackle contemporary challenges and opportunities. In assessing impact, we consider our success in supporting young people to acquire these skills, behaviour, and confidence through our programmes.

In 2020 we have been able to track:

- Programme impact data and qualitative feedback from young people and Leaders;
- The number of Explorers, Adventurers and Leaders we work with;
- Fundraising against strategy and annual targets; and
- Levels of engagement with our members.

The charity provided benefits through its programmes to 229 young people (Young Explorers and Adventurers) in 2020.

We secured 475 attendances from young people across our activities this year.

23 volunteer professional Leaders and Experts prepared for and delivered our Wildestan Adventures and Expedition and a further 39 have participated in induction training in preparation for programmes in 2021.

My Compass reporting

British Exploring Society seeks to measure the degree to which young people have developed key skills and qualities using a participant self-assessment tool, called *My Compass*. This has been in use for several years.

My Compass is designed:

- To guide reflective conversations with young people; encouraging them to think about what they hope to learn from their time with us and to consider any areas of their own skills or personal qualities that they hope to build on;
- To generate programme impact data; and
- To provide a basis for organisational improvement and decision making.

My Compass is designed to be completed multiple times over the course of an Explorer’s engagement with the charity, to assess any change over time. In 2020 we have been unable to deliver full-scale programmes and have not collected *My Compass* data in the usual way. However, we designed and mapped Wildestan Adventures (our main programme activity in 2020 – see under *Notable Activities*) and our Expedition Workshops in schools against *My Compass* desired outcomes. The table below indicates the key skills and qualities shared with young people in 2020, and the regularity with which those themes were covered:

Theme	Making Decisions That Matter	Managing My Feelings	Staying on Track	Communication	Problem Solving	People and Me	Confidence	The World and Me
Sessions focusing on each theme	10	5	1	10	15	5	4	8
My Compass Theme descriptor	Do I think that making decisions and taking action will make a difference, and are they worth it? So far, do I believe that I have the skills I need to make decisions that can shape my life and the world around me?	How well do I understand what causes me to feel certain ways? Do I have ways of managing my emotions if I need to?	Do I think I set myself goals and work towards them well? Can I use goals, or things which matter to me, if I need to find a reason to keep going when I find things difficult?	Can I successfully explain my ideas including how I feel and think, and what I want and need? Can I express myself in different ways to different kinds of people so that I feel understood and taken seriously? Can I listen well to others and reach agreement with someone successfully?	Can I think around and solve a problem I have not come across before? Can I come up with a plan to fix a problem only using the resources I have available? Am I able to work in a team to find the best solution to a problem?	Do I feel that I am part of a team or community? Does this community have a positive impact on my wellbeing? Is achieving things together a positive experience for me? How much time have I spent so far thinking about others, listening to their ideas, and making sure that everyone gets to take part and is equally valued? Do I feel happy when I can contribute to my team or community?	Do I feel confident? Can I look other people in the eye? Do I believe in my skills and abilities? Can I manage setbacks? Do I celebrate my own successes? What does the best version of myself look like? Do I understand my values (what matters to me most) - and do they help me make good decisions? Can I find coping strategies for when things get tough and can I put them in place when I need them?	Do I think about the impact I have on the environment? Does the quality of the environment I live in matter to me? Would I say that I care about my environment and take the actions I can to protect it? Is it fair to say that I think about this in terms of where I live, and in terms of the wider World?

Adventurer feedback from Wildestan Adventures

For our Wildestan activity this year we collected simple poll data on *fun*, *interactivity*, *learning* and *safety* to understand the effectiveness of our new programme - and a new way of working. We also collected in-depth qualitative narratives from young people taking part in the programme.

I...could not verbally communicate until I was around 7 years of age. Wildestan is different to anything I have experienced before. I was learning how to build fires one week and then learning about birdsong the week after. I am more equipped to manage myself...Wildestan has opened my eyes to a world I have always wished to know more about...'

Young Adventurer, Wildestan 2020

Total number of Wildestan feedback polls completed	229	100%
The session was Fun or Very fun	226	99%
The session was Interactive or Very Interactive	221	97%
The participant learnt something	227	99%
The participant felt safe or very safe	229	100%

Wildestan has produced many more repeat Adventurers than we could have expected, and through qualitative feedback so far, it seems to produce similar positive outcomes to those reported by young people in previous years. Young people refer to more confidence, greater enthusiasm for learning, focus and ambition and enhanced communication skills. We have also been told of the positive impact of having structured Adventures through lockdown on the overall well-being of participants. They looked forward to re-engaging with fellow ‘Wildestanis’ and to learning something new each week.

Notable activities and achievements in 2019/20

Our activities this year

PINNACLE EXPEDITION (Training throughout 2020 – departs February 2022)

14 young people and 7 leaders were recruited and then took part in extensive engagement and on-line training sessions in preparation for our first expedition to Lake Baikal in Siberia. This programme, generously supported by Sandy and Zorica Glen, has now been postponed to February 2022, but we will continue to provide training and support for all those already signed up for the expedition.

EXPEDITION WORKSHOPS January – March 2020

‘In tough situations that life throws at us we need to consider other people around and decide collectively on the best outcomes for all our needs.’

‘I liked the ‘immersive’ experience of going to the Amazon and having to solve different problems.’

‘I learnt that at the end of the day it’s the people you have on your team that make the experiences you have, and that cooperation and good judgement are essentials.’

Participants, Expedition Workshops, 2020

First delivered in 2020. Lasting a full morning or afternoon, using ‘real’ resources from our expedition planning processes, we worked with Leaders to design active participation workshops for secondary schools. Our aims were:

- To provide valued content for our partner schools and stand-alone learning for participants;
- To develop experience in decision-making under pressure and support strategies for positive well-being for young people;
- To present new and relatable adult role-models to young people;
- To dispel myths about the outdoors – about fitness, money, suitability, and the purpose of modern adventure and exploration;
- To have fun and show learning in a new, exciting context, treating our audience as adults, as we do on our programmes.

Supported by the Hartz Family Foundation we commenced delivery in early 2020 and were able to reach 135 students before lock-down. Feedback was positive from teaching staff and young people and we secured several further workshops before the pandemic postponed any further rollout. COVID-19 restrictions have meant that we were not able to reinstate workshops for delivery in schools this year.

WILDESTAN ADVENTURES May – October 2020

British Exploring Society launched ‘Wildestan’ as a strategic response to COVID-19 - and our first virtual destination - in May 2020.

We currently provide live, virtual, interactive adventures and expeditions for young people aged 14 and above in Wildestan. Each adventure is hosted by one of our professional Leaders and is themed around – and where possible is delivered in –the wilderness. Our leaders accessed wilderness from across the UK and in Europe for our Young Adventurers. We have used as much as we can of the same mix of Adventure, Knowledge and Personal Development as we have used in the wilderness for nearly a century to engage young people in lively activities - but using only ‘kit’ found in the home.

Wildestan Adventures are designed to be fun, most importantly, and to provide the challenge of learning something new alongside other young people. Each Adventure develops key outdoors skills, offers learning about the natural world, and develops confidence. Most importantly, it allows the opportunity to meet and connect with inspiring Leaders in a safe environment. We delivered 19 Wildestan Adventures with the following themes:

- Show me the ropes
- Fantastic Bugs and where to find them
- Where on earth am I?
- Survival in the wild: water
- These boots are made for walking
- Tracks and Trails
- Songs of the Wilderness
- Leave no trace
- Survival in the wild: fire
- Survival in the wild: when things go wrong
- Survival in the wild: cooking on fire
- Survival in the wild: First Aid
- Wildestan Past and Present
- Leading when the temperature drops

Wildestan Adventures will remain a core part of our programme in future years.

WILDESTAN EXPEDITION 26th - 30th October 2020

I attended the expedition to Wildestan because it was a great opportunity to learn interesting facts from actual expedition leaders and to escape from lockdown in a city by being whisked away into the wilderness....(it) provided some structure to what was a difficult time and gave us optimism for the future.’

Young Adventurer 2020

In addition to our Adventures, we wanted to provide a sustained experience in Wildestan, as we continued to be unable to access the outdoors in the UK during 2020. Over the autumn half term, we delivered our first Wildestan Expedition.

5 consecutive days of live, online, interactive Wildestan workshops with the same cohort were led by different Experts to prepare participants for life on expedition and to provide an introduction to some of the learning, skills, and personal development benefits of an expedition programme:

- **Wellbeing in the wilderness:** thinking about stress and resilience, team-work.
- **Camp life:** tents, cooking, food, field skills, looking after your feet.
- **When the going gets tough:** safety, risk, and First Aid.
- **Our fragile world:** plants and animals, weather, being a responsible explorer, conservation and the weather.
- **Recording your journey:** capturing the experience. Filming, reporting, documenting.

FIRESIDES/WEBINARS

Our vision of equal access to challenging learning and adventure in the wilderness for all young people needs to be championed with better communication of its importance. To that end, and to support our fundraising, we have hosted a small number of events, virtually for the time being, to bring together interesting speakers and audiences on the general themes of adventure, personal development and fair access. We also invite young people to attend these events where possible.

25th June 2020 Rory Stewart: ‘From Afghanistan to Wildestan’.

20th October 2020 Marvin Rees: ‘A New Significance – why fair access to the outdoors is now more important than ever’.

In addition to raising awareness and encouraging debate, these events have so far also raised over £85,000 for the work of the charity.

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities is shown on page 24.

2019/20 has been a unique year for British Exploring Society. In the wake of the pandemic, the financial outcome looked uncertain. However, most of our longstanding funding partners on restricted programmes generously de-restricted their donations in-year. This, combined with the sterling performance of our in-house Fundraising team and our Development Board, ensured the health of our unrestricted donations. Cancelled programmes and back office efficiencies meant significant cost savings in-year and an insurance claim to cover loss of contribution from two of our overseas programmes was received in October. The charity was able to recover, deliver new programmes and to sustain its core team, growing unrestricted and restricted reserves to put us in a strong position to face future challenges and be ready to deliver benefit in the face of increasing need.

British Exploring Society generated £1,276,453 of income (2019: £1,762,053). The total cost of our charitable activities amounted to £833,011 (2019: £1,599,990). Due to cancellation of our overseas and wilderness programmes, we awarded only £2,994 in grants to individuals (2019: £166,514). This was funded through restricted funds.

There was net surplus on the unrestricted, restricted and endowment funds of £371,572 (2019: £62,093 net expenditure). The Council confirms that the charity's assets are available and adequate to fulfil the financial obligations of the Society.

The main activities in the year to 31 October 2020 are outlined in the sections above.

The income and expenditure of the charity are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 24 of these financial statements. Expenditure incurred on programmes that will take place after 31 October 2020 has been carried forward as prepayments, as can be seen in note 8 to these accounts. We have made considerable efforts to provide refunds to young people where expeditions did not proceed due to the pandemic. Where young people have either not yet sought the refund, or are considering 'carrying over' their contribution, any unrefunded balances are held in creditors, as seen in note 9.

Investment Policy and Performance

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Council has the power to invest in such stocks, shares, investments and property as they see fit. No fund managers are currently engaged.

Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is implemented in concert with other governance and financial controls, and is intended to support these policies and the goals identified in British Exploring Society strategic and operational plans. 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 2020 was £449,403 of which £374,855 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 2020 was £299,746.

Structure, Governance and Management

Our Council is ultimately accountable for the effectiveness of the charity in the achievement of its charitable purpose. The Council's primary responsibilities relate to policy, strategy and performance, meeting, or exceeding standards in all areas of statutory regulation, financial performance and the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the young people that the charity works with. The executive team under the direction of the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing policy and strategy. The executive team and Chief Executive Officer design and deliver operational plans, manage risk on a day-to-day basis, make recommendations to Council in all areas of activity, and are accountable to Council for performance against all agreed performance indicators. The responsibility for all activities towards the

achievement of the charity's charitable purpose which take place overseas during expeditions is delegated to contracted volunteer Chief Leaders.

The charity employs 12 full-time and 5 part-time employees who manage the direction and day-to-day administration of the charity. Many volunteers, who offer their services either regularly or on an ad hoc basis, assist both Council and staff. A significant number provide specialist professional services to the charity as a donation.

Members of Council meet regularly, either at a full Council meeting (minimum four per annum) or by way of meetings of sub-committees, to manage its affairs. Individual Council members additionally dedicate their time to oversee specific areas of activity to support the executive staff team.

Council from time to time also appoints Advisors to the Board. These are usually individuals with expertise in areas of strategic significance to the charity and are listed on the website of the charity. They have no fixed term of office.

The Company is limited by guarantee and governed by Articles of Association which were updated in 2017 at its AGM.

Members of Council, listed on page 3, are the directors for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006 and trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011. Members of the Council are appointed at Council or at the Annual General Meeting each year. Since the Company is limited by guarantee, none of the members of the Council has any beneficial interests in shares in the Company.

The Council is entitled to propose candidates for election to Council and to appoint additional members of Council. New members of Council are recruited to the Council of British Exploring Society by application. Their application must be proposed and seconded by current members of the charity and, in the case of competition for places on the Council, whose numbers are limited, members must be voted in by a quorum of the members of the charity. In selecting new members of Council, consideration is given to the specific contribution that they can make to the Council and the charity. A regular skills and training audit is undertaken to ensure that appointments to Council reflect the strategic priorities of the charity.

Members of Council are limited to two four-year terms, after which a two-year break is enforced before the possibility of a further term.

The pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set by Council and is kept under annual review. Several criteria are used in setting pay:

- Nature of the role and responsibilities;
- The sector-average salary for comparable positions;
- General trends in pay.

Policies

The following is a list of current British Exploring Policies:

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

Approach to Managing Risk

The charity must manage two categories of risk: those to itself and those to the Leaders and young people who participate on its programmes in wild and remote areas. Council is responsible for the oversight of both. The Executive works with Council to agree risk appetite and tolerance on a dynamic, case-by-case basis. Effective governance and oversight of risk provide assurance that British Exploring Society's activities will not be adversely affected by predictable risks, which in turn reduces the likelihood of not achieving its strategy.

Council members and the Chief Executive's senior leadership team identify risks to British Exploring Society. The major risks are documented, monitored by the senior leadership team on a continuous basis, and reviewed at each Council meeting. An Operations sub-committee supports the Executive team in the oversight of risk in relation to programme development and delivery. At least two Council members serve on this committee.

Areas affected by risk include programmes, finances, governance, operations, insurance, compliance with law and regulation, and external perceptions and relationships.

Programme risk management process

The Chief Executive, supported by the Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, is responsible for establishing and operating a system for managing expeditions and programmes and their associated risks. On expedition, this is delegated to Chief Leaders, who as agents of the charity are responsible for the system.

This system includes checking compliance with British Exploring Society standard operating procedures (SOPs). These cover all technical aspects of preparing and delivering a programme or an expedition and the standards and skills expected of Leaders and Experts including their ability to dynamically assess and manage the changing risks to which an expedition may be exposed.

SOPs are reviewed by the British Exploring Society senior leadership team, technical advisors, and by Council. They are updated in the light of practical experience and changes in practice and regulation. Individual risk management plans and control measures are also subject to interrogation against questions and challenges generated through a targeted desk-based process of research which considers environmental, political and other risks which we may not have been previously encountered in the field.

Expedition Leadership

An experienced, capable Chief Leader is the bedrock upon which a safe, well-managed expedition is founded. The Chief Executive, Head of Expeditions and/or Expeditions Manager question each candidate Chief Leader at length and satisfy themselves about their abilities and experience before appointment. The British Exploring Society executive team reserves the right to require a Chief Leader to stand down from expedition leadership at any point if they have reason to believe that the individual can no longer effectively manage dynamic risk assessment in the field or support the delivery of wider charitable objectives to the appropriate standard.

The responsibility for selecting and developing a strong, cohesive expedition leadership team which understands the ethos and expectations of British Exploring Society, rests with the Chief Leader, Head of Expeditions and Expeditions Manager, and is overseen by the Chief Executive who reports to Council. Each Chief Leader works closely with the British Exploring Society office throughout the planning process. They will assess the risks relevant to the programme objectives, client group and environment, and, following the relevant operating procedures, develop a comprehensive set of plans including for communications, major incidents, and medical emergencies. The nominated expedition lead at British Exploring Society reviews the risk assessment, itinerary and plans.

A final broad scope, desk-based review of new potential risks is conducted and reviewed prior to deployment. This is designed to identify any emerging political/social/economic/health/environmental hazards not previously existing. Whilst ethical issues are a standard feature of all programme planning, the charity also has an Ethical Expeditions Policy to support decision-making relating to any emerging ethical issues identified shortly before departure dates.

Before each expedition or new programme, Explorers, Leaders and Experts are trained to identify and manage risks.

At the start of an expedition, further training is given. A Chief Leader, liaising with the British Exploring Society office in London, will adapt their expedition's plans, risk assessment and control measures to suit the circumstances in the field at the time.

Programme risk management oversight

Council members monitor the operation of processes and review the Chief Executive's assessment of each expedition or programmes readiness to commence before authorisation. This is usually delegated to the Operations Committee. From time to time council members attend training and may spend a few days in the field. After expeditions return, Council reviews post-expedition reports and performance data and any remedial actions to be incorporated into future planning. This ensures that the charity's system

for identifying and managing risks to Leaders and participants on its expeditions - and to the charity itself - is relevant, robust and transparent.

The charity is a member of the Expedition Providers' Association. Learning Outside the Classroom, its accrediting body, assesses the following areas to seek assurance about expedition risk:

- British Exploring Society standard operating procedures and the risk management process itself;
- The expeditions/operations team ensuring that these are effected;
- The CEO as risk manager;
- The team of technical advisors who support British Exploring Society in the design of policies, procedures, individual expeditions and mitigation of risk;
- Chief Leaders as agents in the field;
- Compliance with British Standard 8848, which includes external assessment by AAA; and
- Nominated members of Council monitoring all stages of an expedition and investigating detail when appropriate.

British Exploring Society's Council is satisfied that the charity's ability to identify, manage and review risks to the safety of expeditions and programmes is sound, and worked effectively in 2020.

Financial Risk

Financial risk represents the risk to the charity of having insufficient funds to carry out its committed charitable activities, due to over-reaching in planning such activities, insufficient fund-raising or general poor management of funds and expenses. Council mitigates such financial risk through the appointment of a finance sub-committee of Council chaired by the Treasurer, which meets approximately two weeks before every Council meeting. Executive finance officers present the latest accounts, forecasts and operating data for review and cross-checking by the sub-committee before such information can be submitted to Council. Members of the sub-committee can request ad hoc reports on financial and operating matters. The finance sub-committee is given delegated authority to manage the deposits and investments of the Society. The Charity's Finance Policy and Procedures and Reserves Policy are reviewed annually

Public Benefit, Fundraising and Council Responsibilities

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. Our Data Protection and Privacy Policy was reviewed and revised alongside our Ethical Fundraising and Partnerships Policy in June 2020. 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, with management and the Development Board responsible for ensuring that related policies and procedures are followed. 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 2019/20 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 26, 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.

Statement of Council Members' Responsibilities

Members of Council are responsible for preparing the Council's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires members of Council to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the members of the Council are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The members of Council are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The members of Council are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to the Auditor

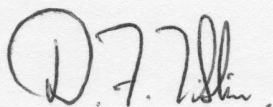
So far as each member of Council at the date of approval of this report is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- certain members of Council, on its behalf, have made the appropriate enquiries and have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to ensure that the auditors are aware of that information.

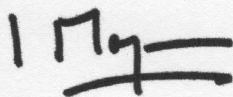
Small company special provisions

The Council Report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies' exemption in Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006. The accounts comply with the current statutory requirements, the governing document and SORP 2019.

This report was approved on 3rd February 2021 and signed on behalf of the Council by:



David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Exploring Society (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 October 2020 which comprise Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 October 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken during the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustee's report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained during the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 18, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using

the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken based on these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

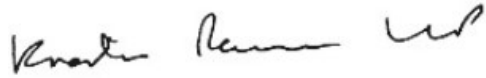
Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY A company limited by guarantee and not having share capital

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Stephen Tanner BSc(Econ) FCA, Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Kreston Reeves LLP, Statutory Auditor
Third Floor
24 Chiswell Street
London
EC1Y 4YX

Kreston Reeves LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Date 4th February 2021

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income						
Donations	2	1,015,918	2,699	125	1,018,742	750,669
<i>Income from charitable activities:</i>						
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	3	9,617	139,674	-	149,291	1,008,226
Income from investments	4	914	-	-	914	1,868
Other income	5	107,506	-	-	107,506	1,290
Total incoming resources		<u>1,133,955</u>	<u>142,373</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,276,453</u>	<u>1,762,053</u>
Expenditure						
Expenditure on raising funds		5,680	-	-	5,680	10,710
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	849,638	49,563	-	899,201	1,813,436
Total expenditure		<u>855,318</u>	<u>49,563</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>904,881</u>	<u>1,824,146</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year before transfers		278,637	92,810	125	371,572	(62,093)
Transfer between funds		(1,000)	3,000	(2,000)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		277,637	95,810	(1,875)	371,572	(62,093)
Reconciliation of Funds						
Total funds brought forward		171,766	158,345	47,466	377,577	439,670
Total funds carried forward	15	<u>449,403</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>749,149</u>	<u>377,577</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

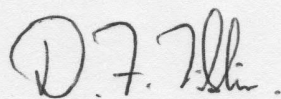
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		£	£		£	£
Tangible assets	7	74,548	-	-	74,548	63,867
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		<u>74,548</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,548</u>	<u>63,867</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>						
Cash at bank and in hand		392,359	253,030	45,591	690,980	371,065
Debtors	8	82,119	1,125	-	83,244	132,895
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>474,478</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>774,224</u>	<u>503,960</u>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(99,623)	-	-	(99,623)	(190,250)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>374,855</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>674,601</u>	<u>313,710</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>449,403</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>749,149</u>	<u>377,577</u>
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY:						
Endowment funds		-	-	45,591	45,591	47,466
Restricted income funds		-	254,155	-	254,155	158,345
Unrestricted income funds		449,403	-	-	449,403	171,766
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	15	<u>449,403</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>749,149</u>	<u>377,577</u>

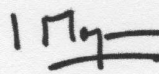
The notes on page 27 to 40 form part of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2016.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue on 3rd February 2021 and signed on behalf of Council by:



David Tilston
Treasurer



Ian Maginnis
Chair

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2020**

	Note	2020	2019
		£	£
Net cash used in operating activities	16	<u>355,849</u>	<u>(86,445)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest		914	1,868
Purchase of assets		(36,848)	(64,720)
Transfer of cash from investments		-	-
Net cash flow by investing activities		<u>(35,934)</u>	<u>(62,852)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>319,915</u>	<u>(149,297)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>371,065</u>	<u>520,362</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>690,980</u>	<u>371,065</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2020

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006. The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

British Exploring Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The financial statements have been prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency, and are rounded to the nearest £1.

1.2 Income

Expedition contributions are accounted for as receivable by the Company and recognised in the statement of Financial Activities, except where they relate to an expedition occurring in a later year, when they are deferred within creditors and credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Donations in kind or by way of donated equipment are accounted for on receipt, at the estimated value. Voluntary income and donations are accounted for on receipt by the charity and recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Legacies are accounted for where there is a reasonable degree of certainty as to the amounts receivable.

1.3 Recognition of donated services

Donated services are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated services are recognised on the basis of the value of the voluntary time contribution to the organisation, which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2020

1.4 Expenditure

Expenses and grants payable are recognised in the accounts when they are accrued when they are incurred by the charity, with the exception of costs for future expeditions, which are deferred within debtors and charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year the expedition takes place. Grant applications are considered by the Expedition Co-ordinators and Chief Executive and awards are given to deserving cases to fund participation in expeditions.

Expenditure is allocated to the activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. The staff and office costs incurred on each activity are apportioned on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity:

Cost of expeditions	95%
Management and administration of the charity	5%

1.5 Capitalised staff policy

Staff costs which are directly attributable to bringing a fixed asset into working condition for its intended use are capitalised as a tangible fixed asset.

1.6 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset over its expected useful life. The useful economic lives of expedition equipment items are reviewed and adjusted annually. The brought forward values are then written off over this period. Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

Expedition equipment	between 1 and 10 years, straight line basis
Office equipment and computers	25% straight line basis

Individual items of equipment costing less than £100 are not capitalised.

1.7 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors are recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Reserves

The charity holds reserves which have been designated for the following purposes:-

- **Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds** are maintained as required by the individual trust deeds; some of these allow for the income to be accumulated to provide a meaningful grant at a later date.
- **Restricted Funds** are certain donations made with conditions attached (e.g. for use in subsidising Explorers from particular areas or supporting the outreach project) and are kept in a Restricted Fund until applied.

1.11 Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate ruling on the date of transaction. Exchange differences are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.12 Operating leases

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

1.13 Pensions

Contributions in respect of the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end. At the year end, there were no accruals or prepayments (2019: £0).

Employer contributions made to the scheme during 2020 amount to £15,552 (2019: £12,390).

1.14 Members' liability

The society is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of the society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

1.15 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the members of Council believe that no material uncertainties exist. Members of the Council have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for the 12 months from authorising these financial statements in the light of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****2. Income from donations**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Cash donations	998,321	-	125	998,446	435,422
Donated services	17,597	2,699	-	20,296	315,247
	<u>1,015,918</u>	<u>2,699</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>1,018,742</u>	<u>750,669</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
Cash donations	435,197	-	225	435,422
Donated services	214,141	101,106	-	315,247
	<u>649,338</u>	<u>101,106</u>	<u>225</u>	<u>750,669</u>

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	9,617	139,674	-	149,291	1,008,226

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
Contributions from participants, supporters and sponsors	424,471	583,755	-	1,008,226

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2020

4. Income from investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Interest receivable on cash deposits	914	-	-	914	1,868
	<u>914</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>914</u>	<u>1,868</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
Interest receivable on cash deposits	1,868	-	-	1,868
	<u>1,868</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,868</u>

5. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Insurance pay-out	107,446	-	-	107,446	-
Miscellaneous receipts	60	-	-	60	1,290
	<u>107,506</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>107,506</u>	<u>1,290</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
Annual subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous receipts	1,290	-	-	1,290
	<u>1,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,290</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****6. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>					
Total expedition costs	199,599	43,870	-	243,469	772,514
Donated services *	17,597	2,699	-	20,296	315,247
Salary costs **	565,947	-	-	565,947	508,146
Depreciation	3,299	-	-	3,299	4,083
Total cost of expeditions	786,442	46,569	-	833,011	1,599,990
<i>Governance costs</i>					
Salary costs	29,787	-	-	29,787	26,744
Office costs	5,391	-	-	5,391	11,049
Auditors fees	5,150	-	-	5,150	4,985
Depreciation	22,868	-	-	22,868	4,154
Total governance costs	63,196	-	-	63,196	46,932
Grants awarded to individuals	-	2,994	-	2,994	166,514
Total cost of charitable activities	849,638	49,563	-	899,201	1,813,436

* Reduction in donated services caused by cancellation of expedition due to the COVID-19 pandemic

** Increase in salary costs due to additions to the fundraising team. Going forward, all our programmes (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders) will be free, or fully funded for our participants.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****Charitable activities (cont.)**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019 £
<i>Cost of expeditions</i>				
Total expedition costs	425,114	347,400	-	772,514
Donated services	214,141	101,106	-	315,247
Salary costs	508,146	-	-	508,146
Depreciation	4,083	-	-	4,083
Total cost of expeditions	1,151,484	448,506	-	1,599,990
<i>Governance costs</i>				
Salary costs	26,744	-	-	26,744
Office costs	11,049	-	-	11,049
Auditors fees	4,985	-	-	4,985
Depreciation	4,154	-	-	4,154
Total governance costs	46,932	-	-	46,932
Grants awarded to individuals	-	165,998	516	166,514
Total cost of charitable activities	1,198,416	614,504	516	1,813,436

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****7. Tangible Fixed Assets**

	Expedition equipment	Office equipment & computers	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 November 2019	226,847	109,311	336,158
Additions	-	36,848	36,848
At 31 October 2020	<u>226,847</u>	<u>146,159</u>	<u>373,006</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 November 2019	218,290	54,001	272,291
Provided in the year	3,299	22,868	26,167
At 31 October 2020	<u>221,589</u>	<u>76,869</u>	<u>298,458</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2020	<u>5,258</u>	<u>69,290</u>	<u>74,548</u>
Net Book Value at 31 October 2019	<u>8,557</u>	<u>55,310</u>	<u>63,867</u>

All fixed assets are used for the direct furtherance of the charity's objectives.

8. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	32,198
Other debtors	8,336	10,397
Prepayments & accrued income	74,908	90,300
	<u>83,244</u>	<u>132,895</u>

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	73,617	48,937
Other creditors	5,150	4,213
Expedition contributions received in advance	-	111,316
Social security and other taxes	15,706	13,437
Accruals	5,150	12,347
	<u>99,623</u>	<u>190,250</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020**

10. Deferred Income

Deferred income comprises expedition contributions received in advance for the 2021 expeditions.

	£
Balance as at 1 November 2019	111,316
Amount released to income from charitable activities	(111,316)
Amount deferred in the year *	-
	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>

* Due to a change in the funding model of expeditions, all our programmes (except for our professional training qualification for trainee leaders) will be free, or fully funded for our participants.

11. Other financial commitments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable rental leases are as follows:		
- within one year	14,649	17,850
- within two to five years	15,381	-
	<u>30,030</u>	<u>17,850</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2020

12. Staff Costs	2020	2019
	£	£
Staff wages and salaries	530,221	476,374
Social security costs	49,961	46,126
Other Pension costs	15,552	12,390
	<u>595,734</u>	<u>534,890</u>
	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Full Time Employees	12	12
Part Time Employees	5	3
Total number of employees	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>

1 Staff member received benefits above £60,000. The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) was £60,000 or more was:

	2020	2019
£90,001 to £100,000	1	1

No members of Council received any remuneration or benefits in kind in the year. No members of Council received expenses relating to travel and subsistence, and staff entertaining (2019: nil).

British Exploring Society considers its key management personnel comprise Council members and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits paid to key management personnel (including employer pension contributions) were £102,999 (2019: £102,582).

The charity paid £2,199 (2019: £2,199) for Trustees' indemnity insurance.

13. Taxation

British Exploring Society is a registered charity and is exempt from taxation on income applied for charitable purposes under section 505(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****14. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	74,548	-	-	74,548
Debtors	82,119	1,125	-	83,244
Cash at bank and in hand	392,359	253,030	45,591	690,980
Creditors: due within one year	(99,623)	-	-	(99,623)
	<u>449,403</u>	<u>254,155</u>	<u>45,591</u>	<u>749,149</u>

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Tangible Fixed Assets	63,867	-	-	63,867
Debtors	132,895	-	-	132,895
Cash at bank and in hand	165,254	158,345	47,466	371,065
Creditors: due within one year	(190,250)	-	-	(190,250)
	<u>171,766</u>	<u>158,345</u>	<u>47,466</u>	<u>377,577</u>

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 October 2020

15. Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources

2020	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	171,766	1,133,955	855,318	(1,000)	449,403
Total Unrestricted Funds	171,766	1,133,955	855,318	(1,000)	449,403
Restricted Funds					
Sir John Cass's Foundation	-	40,000	-	-	40,000
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	53,929	7,500	-	-	61,429
The Exilarch's Foundation	9,500	40,349	40,349	-	9,500
Other Restricted Funds	94,916	54,524	9,214	3,000	143,226
Total Restricted Funds	158,345	142,373	49,563	3,000	254,155
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds					
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,328	65	-	-	11,393
Alexander Eastwood Award	29,014	-	-	(2,000)	27,014
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,124	60	-	-	7,184
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	47,466	125	-	(2,000)	45,591
Total Funds	377,577	1,276,453	904,881	-	749,149

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £299,746 (2019: £205,811) are represented by cash balances of £298,621 held within Cash at Bank and debtor balances of £1,125. Further detail relating to the fund structure is provided in the accounting policies note (page 29, note 1.10).

Sir John Cass's Foundation - Restricted Funds for Landmark 2021.

Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement - Restricted Funds for Pinnacle 2022.

The Exilarch's Foundation - Restricted Income and Expenditure relating to DNG Expedition 2020. Legacy funding carried forward to future expeditions.

Within the 2019 funds analysis The Peter Cundill Foundation fund and the Hengistbury Investment Partners LLP fund are shown separately due to the value of the transactions within them during the 2019 financial year. However, for the 2020 financial year these funds have not contained such transactions and have therefore been amalgamated within the 'other restricted funds' brought forward.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020****Analysis of fund balances: movement in resources (cont.)**

2019	Brought Forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried Forward £
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	303,925	1,076,967	1,209,126	-	171,766
Total Unrestricted Funds	303,925	1,076,967	1,209,126	-	171,766
Restricted Funds					
Sir John Cass's Foundation	7,000	40,000	47,000	-	-
Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement	23,929	30,000	-	-	53,929
The Exilarch's Foundation	-	220,000	210,500	-	9,500
The Peter Cundill Foundation	-	74,994	70,650	-	4,344
Hengistbury Investment Partners LLP	-	50,000	34,587	-	15,413
Other Restricted Funds	57,059	269,867	251,767	-	75,159
Total Restricted Funds	87,988	684,861	614,504	-	158,345
Restricted Permanent Endowment Funds					
Michael Garvey Bursary	11,679	165	516	-	11,328
Alexander Eastwood Award	29,014	-	-	-	29,014
Tim Ward-Wilson Memorial Award	7,064	60	-	-	7,124
Total Permanent Endowment Funds	47,757	225	516	-	47,466
Total Funds	439,670	1,762,053	1,824,146	-	377,577

The restricted and permanent endowment funds totalling £205,811 are represented by cash balances held within Cash at Bank.

Sir John Cass's Foundation - Restricted Funds for Landmark 2019.

Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement - Restricted Funds for Pinnacle 2021 (now 2022).

The Exilarch's Foundation - Restricted Funds for DNG & Infinity Expeditions 2019. Carried forward balances to be used on future DNG expeditions.

The Peter Cundill Foundation - Restricted Funds for UK Explorers 2019 and Young Explorer Bursaries. Carried forward balances to be used on future expeditions.

Hengistbury Investment Partners LLP - Restricted Funds for Explorer Miles expedition bursaries.

BRITISH EXPLORING SOCIETY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****For the year ended 31 October 2020**

16. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net (expenditure)	371,572	(62,093)
Add back depreciation	26,167	8,237
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(914)	(1,868)
(Increase) in debtors	49,651	(33,009)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(90,627)	2,288
Net Cash Used in Operating activities	355,849	(86,445)

17. Related party transactions

Donations amounting to £38,800 were received from Council members (2019: £22,000). There are no other related party transactions during the year (2019: nil).