

[OUEC] HT24 Week 5 Newsletter

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**Oxford University Exploration Club
Hilary 2024 Week 5**

It is 5th week – the fatigue is creeping in...

But you are in the middle of the Atlantic, still weeks away from your destination. The novelty is long gone. There is no one around: you are hungry and exhausted after pushing yourself to the limit, day after day. Now is the time to quietly reflect on the purpose of this journey: those who have supported you, and the impact you are determined to make.

We are excited for the Kiko Matthews event tomorrow. Tickets are still available!

Please arrive at 18:45, at the main entrance to The Queen's College (<https://what3words.com/fuels.field.aims>). There will be someone to direct you to the Shulman Auditorium. OUEC members – remember to get a free ticket and bring your membership card with you.

**Week 5 Meeting: Kiko Matthews
Resilience and Rowing the Atlantic Solo**

In 2018, Kiko Matthews set a world record by becoming the fastest woman to row solo and unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean (in 49 days), after recovering from brain surgery only months earlier. Since then, she has completed an ultramarathon in Jordan and worked with local communities on beach conservation while cycling the UK coast. She will be speaking about the life skill of resilience, drawing on her personal adventures and experiences.

*This event is ticketed for all attendees:

<https://fixr.co/event/kiko-matthews-resilience-tickets-211243375>

Free for OUEC members / £5 for non-members

Where: The Queen's College, High Street Entrance
When: Tuesday 13th February. Arrive at 18:45 for a 19:00 start



Week 6 Meeting: Heather Needham

Darwin200: Waterfowl and American Mink at the end of the world

The University's Biodiversity Manager, Heather will share her experience from her expedition to the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve in Chile, where she undertook research and interviews, and directed a three-part series about waterfowl and the invasive American mink. This expedition was part of the Darwin200 program where she was selected as a Darwin Leader. The Darwin200 project is training 200 conservationists from around the world to deliver conservation projects, re-tracing Charlie Darwin's famous journey on HMS Beagle two centuries ago. Heather won a Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) grant in 2019, which supported her project to install low-cost weather sensors in the Colombian Andes. She will also share her insights and experience from this expedition.

Free for OUEC members / £5 for non-members

Where: The Queen's College, High Street Entrance
When: Tuesday 20th February, 19:30



Week 7 Meeting: Expedition Welfare

A workshop with Dr Catherine Grasham

Welfare is paramount, especially on an expedition. As we push for improving avenues for member welfare, OUEC proudly hosts Catherine to dive into Expedition Welfare. This is an essential workshop

for those heading out on expeditions over the coming months.

Dr Catherine Fallon Grasham is a social scientist who specialises in water security in Ethiopia. She currently leads social science research in the Awash River basin, Ethiopia, for REACH: Improving water security for the poor, an interdisciplinary, global research programme. With mixed research methods, her work addresses the interconnectedness of water, politics and human development with a particular focus on the inclusion of marginalised voices in research.

Free for OUEC members / £5 for non-members

Where: The Queen's College, High Street Entrance
When: Tuesday 27th February, 19:30



Hilary Term Events

Check out all our Hilary events below. We will have a weekly meeting each Tuesday evening for the next four weeks.

Week 2 - Tue 10 Jan 2024, 19:30h
This event will take place in Lecture Room B, Queen's College

Masterclass: Expedition Essentials
Matthew Buckley, Carla Fuenteslopez & James Kempton
Current & former OUEC Presidents will be running a workshop-style event for your projects, lending our expertise to anyone who is putting together or preparing for an expedition and calling on the collective knowledge of our membership. This informal event will be a chance to have focused feedback from the entire club on ideas and questions you may have. Even if you are not putting together a project, come along and help out!

Week 3 - Tue 13 Feb 2024, 19:00h

Kiko Mathews: "Resilience"
World Record Holder. Environmental Champion. Social Entrepreneur.
In 2018, Kiko Mathews set a world record by becoming the fastest woman to row solo and unsupported across the Atlantic Ocean (in 49 days), after recovering from brain surgery only months earlier. Since then, she has completed an ultramarathon in Jordan and worked with local communities on beach conservation while cycling the UK coast. She will be speaking about the life skill of resilience, drawing on her personal adventures and experiences.
Book your ticket here!
Please arrive at 18.45h for a prompt start at 19.00h.

Week 4 - Tue 20 Feb 2024, 19:30h

Darwinzoo: Waterfowl and American Mink at the end of the world
Heather Needham
The University's Biodiversity Manager, Heather will share her experience from her expedition to the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve in Chile, where she undertook research and interviews and directed a three-part series about waterfowl and the invasive American mink. This expedition was part of the Darwinzoo program where she was selected as a Darwin Leader. The Darwinzoo project is training 200 conservationists from around the world to deliver conservation projects, re-tracing Charles Darwin's famous journey on HMS Beagle two centuries ago. Heather won an Royal Geographical Society (with IBC) grant in 2019, which supported her project to install low-cost weather sensors in the Colombian Andes. She will also share her insights and experience from this expedition.

Week 5 - Tue 5 Mar 2024, 19:30h
"Venue TBC"

Masterclass: Expedition Filmmaking
Sophie Carlame
Sophie is a filmmaker and producer with a few documentaries and short films under her name. Currently, she is producing the documentary of the Oxford University Principe Expedition (2023).
Designed to be accessible to those with little experience as well as those who are already making their own films, this Masterclass will contain hints for all participants to help enhance the quality of their future work, as well as specific tips for expedition filmmaking.

Week 6 - Tue 27 Feb 2024, 19:30h

Masterclass: Expedition Welfare
Dr Catherine Fallon Grasham
Welfare is paramount, including when you are on an expedition. As we push for improving avenues for member welfare, OUEC proudly hosts Catherine to dive into Expedition welfare.
Dr Catherine Fallon Grasham is a social scientist who specialises in water security in Ethiopia. She currently leads social science research in the Awash River basin, Ethiopia, for [REACH: Improving water security for the poor](#), an interdisciplinary, global research programme. With mixed research methods, her work addresses the interconnectedness of water, politics and human development with a particular focus on the inclusion of marginalised voices in research.



Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Scientific Exploration Society grants are closing soon – get your applications in!

Please note that the Exploration Club does not play any role in the application or selection process.
Please refer to the Grant Body's website for full details.

1. Explorers Club (<https://www.explorers.org/grants/>)

- Discovery Expedition Grant – Pre-Application open now, no deadline published. Decision made in 30-45 days after submission.

2. National Geographic Society (<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/grants-and-investments/>)

- Level I & Level II – 11.59 pm (Eastern Timezone) on 11 April 2024. Funding decisions in September 2024.
- Royal Geographical Society (<https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/grants/student-grants>)
- Geographical Fieldwork Grants – 15 February 2024

3. Scientific Exploration Society (<https://www.ses-explore.org/explorer-awards>)

Applications for the following grants are split into Stage 1 and Stage 2.

Stage 1 Applications - 12pm (GMT) on 14 February 2024.

- Sir Charles Blois Explorer Award for Science & Adventure
- Elodie Sandford Explorer Award for Amateur Photography
- Judith Heath Explorer Award for Botany & Research
- Neville Shulman Explorer Award for Expedition Filmmaking
- O'Hea Explorer Award for Occupational & Environmental Health
- SES Explorer Award for Inspirational & Scientific Trailblazing

4. Harvard Travellers Club Permanent Fund (<https://www.travellersfund.org/>) - end of February, decisions made in April 2024.

5. Captain Scott Society (<https://captainscottsociety.com/>) - end of March 2024.

6. Additional Grants

- Please visit this website for details and deadlines: <https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/advice-and-training/plan-an-expedition/other-funding-sources>.



Stash Incoming!

((Again) we promise) we will soon be taking orders for stash! Wear the recognizable OUEC badge to explorer events and expeditions around the world! Details to come, but for now, GET HYPED!



Join our WhatsApp Group!

Members can now join our WhatsApp group by clicking on the following link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GpEHUcol8veLC5mrJbgLSP>



Membership

Benefits of OUEC membership include:

- Free access to all our weekly talks & workshops
- Ability to apply for Expeditions Council funding
- Subsidised OUEC stash (fleeces, jackets and hats)
- Subsidised tickets to expedition related events across the country (e.g. RGS Explore)
- Access to a range of expedition planning resources and documents
- Access to a network of explorers and Oxford alumni
- Weekly opportunities to meet different explorers who come to speak for the Club
- An opportunity to be part of one of Oxford's oldest clubs with a long history of exploring the globe

Our current prices are:

Term - £10

Year - £20

Life - £35

Find out more and register here: <https://www.ouec.co.uk/membership>. Payment can be completed in-person at an event (cash or card), or via bank transfer.



OUEC Platforms

Finally, please find all our social media platforms and website below. This is the most up-to-date listing.

[OUEC Linktree](#)
[OUEC WhatsApp Group](#)



Many thanks to all our members, new and old. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!
Matthew Buckley, Chairman

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