



wilderness LECTURES

2016 / 2017

WINTER PROGRAMME

*A series of audio/visual presentations in Bristol
whose theme is worldwide adventure,
travel and exploration.*

*Our lecturers are all widely travelled
explorers, mountaineers and well
known adventurers.*

Held at
The Chemistry Lecture Theatre
University of Bristol

in association with

**SNOW
+
ROCK**

*Britain's leading
outdoor gear retailer.*
www.snowandrock.com

and



*Britain's foremost
trekking company.*
www.mountainkingdoms.com

www.wildernesslectures.com

To purchase tickets - see back page

LECTURE DETAILS

2016

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Wednesday 05 October | Leon McCarron | <i>Walk the Masar</i> |
| 2. Wednesday 19 October | Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent | <i>A Short Ride in the Jungle</i> |
| 3. Wednesday 25 October | Doug Scott | <i>Everest the Hard Way
(fundraising event for
Community Action Nepal)</i> |
| 4. Wednesday 02 November | Laura Stone | <i>Himalaya by Bike</i> |
| 5. Wednesday 16 November | Kev Brady | <i>Paddling the Mississippi &
Swimming the Severn</i> |
| 6. Wednesday 23 November | Brit Rock | <i>Brit Rock Tour</i> |
| 7. Wednesday 30 November | Steve Bell | <i>Virgin on Insanity</i> |
| 8. Wednesday 14 December | Phoebe Smith | <i>Extreme Sleeps and Wild Nights</i> |
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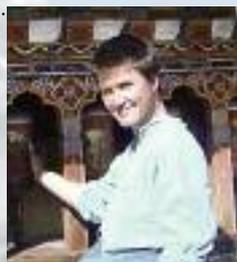
2017

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|---------------------------|---------------|---|
| 9. Wednesday 11 January | Chris Jewell | <i>Cave Diving in Sistema Huautla</i> |
| 10. Wednesday 25 January | Martyn Ashton | <i>Progression</i> |
| 11. Wednesday 08 February | Sarah Outen | <i>London2London: Via the World</i> |
| 12. Wednesday 22 February | Kev Reynolds | <i>A Walk in the Clouds</i> |
| 13. Wednesday 08 March | Sandy Allan | <i>In Some Lost Place, the
Ascent of the Mazeno Ridge</i> |
| 14. Wednesday 22 March | Joe Johnstone | <i>Across Lake Khuvsgul
(Khuvsgul Nuur) on foot</i> |
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THE GINETTE HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Tragically, in 1999 Britain's foremost woman high altitude mountaineer died in an avalanche while attempting Dhaulagiri.

Each year we nominate one lecture in memory of Ginette, who was part of the Bristol climbing scene. Wilderness Lectures will be donating £600 this year to SHIVA, a UK based charity which has built a school, near Kathmandu, named after Ginette. Visit www.shivacharity.co.uk for more information.



LECTURE PROFILES

(In some cases, our website will carry additional profile information.)

1. Leon McCarron

Synopsis: In December 2015 Leon set off from Jerusalem to begin a 1000 mile walk through the heart of the Middle East. The journey took him through some of the most debated, maligned and misunderstood parts of the region - the West Bank of Palestine, Jordan and the Sinai Peninsula. Along the way, Leon collected the thoughts and stories of those he met, as well as travelling on foot through stunning and diverse landscapes; rolling green hills, terraced Mediterranean-esque olive groves, epic deep wadis and vast, rugged deserts. This talk will explore the various layers of culture, history, faith and politics at work in the bubbling cauldron of the Holy Land.



Profile: Leon McCarron is a Northern Irish writer, film-maker and adventurer and specialises in long distance, human-powered expeditions. He has cycled from New York to Hong Kong, walked 3000 miles across China, trekked 1000 miles through the Empty Quarter desert and travelled along Iran's longest river by a variety of human-powered methods. At the end of 2014 he rode a horse across Argentina, following the Santa Cruz river in the footsteps of Charles Darwin. Most recently, Leon walked from Jerusalem to Mount Sinai to explore another side of the Middle East. He has written one book, produced a TV series for National Geographic and made three independent films. A second book and new film series are due out in 2017.

www.leonmccarron.com

2. Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent

Synopsis: In the spring of 2013, after several months of worrying about tigers and UXO (unexploded ordnance), Antonia (aka Ants) set off from Hanoi on a solo motorcycle trip down the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Riding a geriatric Honda Cub she spent the next two months exploring some of Southeast Asia's remotest regions, on a mission to trace what remained of the once gargantuan Trail. Battling inhospitable terrain and multiple breakdowns it was a journey that ranged from the hilarious to the mildly terrifying, during which she encountered tribal chiefs, illegal loggers, former American fighter pilots, young women whose children had been killed by UXO, eccentric Ozzie bomb disposal experts and multiple mechanics...



Profile: Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent is a travel writer and veteran of extreme overland adventures. In 2006 she co-piloted a pink tuk tuk, Ting Tong, 12,500 miles from Bangkok to Brighton with her best friend Jo. They set the (highly competitive) World Record for the 'longest ever journey by auto-rickshaw,' raised £50,000 for Mind, were named Cosmopolitan magazine's 'Fun, Fearless Females of the Year' and subsequently wrote a book, Tuk Tuk to the Road. Ants has since wobbled around the Black Sea on a zebra print Honda Cub (our 2010 Wilderness Award), and survived an attempt to reach the Arctic Circle on an old Russian Ural. A Short Ride in the Jungle, was released in 2014.

www.theitinerant.co.uk

3. Doug Scott CBE

Synopsis: Everest The Hard Way is the story of one of mountaineering's most extraordinary achievements told by one of the world's most extraordinary men. By 1975 the South West face had already seen off five previous expeditions consisting of some of the strongest mountaineers of the time. In the autumn Chris Bonington and his British team returned to the face and finally succeeded. Doug Scott and Dougal Haston reached the summit just as the sun was setting and left at 7.00 pm. Their torches failed reversing the Hillary Step, wind had blown snow into their steps and they were out of oxygen. They decided it would be prudent to bivouac, although it was only 300 feet below the main summit, and survived 9 hours in a snow cave in temperatures around minus 40 degrees centigrade without sleeping bags, oxygen or, amazingly, frostbite. Doug knew that from then on he would not be carrying cylinders of oxygen.



Profile: Having completed his first Alpine season at the age of 18, Doug went on to make forty-two expeditions to the high mountain of Asia. With the exception of his ascent of Everest, he has made

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all his climbs in alpine style and without the use of artificial oxygen. He's received the Royal Geographical Society Patron's Gold Medal and the Piolets d'Or Lifetime Achievement award. In 1995 he founded Community Action Nepal (CAN), a UK-based registered charity which aims to help mountaineers support the mountain people of Nepal.

This is the Paul Esser Memorial Lecture 2016, run in association with the University of Bristol Mountaineering Club and the University of Bristol Speleaeological Society. All proceeds go to CAN.

www.canepal.org.uk/

4. Laura Stone

Synopsis: Himalaya by Bike will be a west to east gambol along the Himalayas from the Karakoram Highway, between Pakistan and China, to Arunachal Pradesh in India's far northeastern states, which have only recently opened up to foreign tourists. Along the way they visit Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal with a mix of history, food and culture. Laura will pick out her favourite cycling routes and share her top tips (and epic fails) for cycle touring at altitude, travelling solo and writing a guidebook.



Profile: Laura was always the last to be picked in PE at school so when she discovered she could ride a bicycle uphill, take in the views, eat sandwiches while exercising and chat away while others were turning puce she decided that travel by bicycle was the best and has never looked back. She became a Map Buyer at Stanfords in London's Covent Garden then a writer and photographer for Rough Guides, doing all her research trips by bike. In the winter of 2002 she broke her arm in three places in a bike accident and while she was bored and in plaster she began dreaming of a really epic trip... She spent the best part of the next three years riding solo from Pakistan to Bhutan researching 'Himalaya by Bike' for Trailblazer Guides.

www.himalayabybike.com

5. Brit Rock Tour

Synopsis: Brit Rock is Britain's home grown answer to the Cannes Film Festival but more fun. 4 great films from our own film-makers. This event is run in association with TCA where you can enjoy free bouldering on the day from 10am with a ticket. If you are not a TCA member, you can join up on the day and still get your free climbing session.



Profile: 'Stone Age Boomers': Produced and filmed by Alastair Lee - an hour-long all action cinematic spectacular revelling in the UK's current golden age of bouldering. Boomers takes us on a revealing tour visiting some of the UK's finest bouldering venues from the South-West, the Lakes, North Wales, Scotland, Yorkshire and the North-East through to exploring some of the country's newest and most recently developed areas like Murlough Bay and Fairhead, in Northern Ireland. The documentary focuses on the current generation who emerge stronger than ever from the indoor walls unearthing new lines and expanding what's possible on the rock. It includes numerous first ascents, the search for new lines and hair-raising high balls. **'The Quarrymen':** Charming short by Neil Heart following Neil Pearson's recent ascent of the famous route in the Welsh slate quarries. Included archive footage of the original Quarrymen and commentary from the legendary Johnny Dawes. **'Tribute to Ken Wilson and Hard Rock':** A BMC TV production by renowned climbing film maker Paul Diffly. **'Divide and Conquer':** Current trad masters James McHaffie and Ryan Pascal battle it out for a coveted ascent of the spectacular John Dunne route 'Divided Years' in Northern Ireland's Mourne Mountains.

www.britrockfilmtour.com

6. Kev Brady

Synopsis: Kev Brady will be telling the story of two outrageous journeys. On September 23rd 2015, Kev set out to be the first person in history to swim the longest river in the UK, the River Severn, from its source in Mid Wales, 220 miles to Severn beach, where he arrived a month after setting out. That's the equivalent of over 14,000 lengths of a 25m pool but pool swimmers don't have to contend with dead sheep! A year earlier, with only one weekend's preparation on the Wye, he had set out during the coldest winter on record to paddle the length of the



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LECTURE PROFILES

Mississippi River from its source in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, arriving successfully in the Gulf of Mexico 140 days and 3,200km later and raising £18,000 towards 'Archie's Chance To Dance', helping a young lad with cerebral palsy get an operation he needs.

Profile: Adventurer, support worker and SUP (stand up paddle board instructor) Kev Brady from Gloucester has found ways around various injuries to complete a series of endurance events to raise thousands of pounds for charity. He cycled 1000 miles across Turkey in a Superhero costume, solo canoed one of North America's longest rivers and became the first person to swim the length of the UK's longest river.

www.kevbrady.com

7. Steve Bell

Synopsis: The journey from childhood to adulthood can be fraught one. It certainly was for 'Britain's most experienced teenage alpinist'. The young Steve Bell sought refuge on some of the world's toughest mountains to escape his perceived shortcomings, especially with women. In his talk, *Virgin on Insanity*, he takes us on his epic climbs of the great north faces of the Alps: The Eiger, Matterhorn, Grands Jorasses and the Petit Dru, while wrestling with a confused idea of manhood. Near brushes with death become commonplace, and with every climb he pushes the envelope a little bit further.



During an expedition to Alaska he cracks, and joins a religious cult in Colorado, escaping two months later by hitching a ride with a murderer on the run. Eventually he returns to climbing and finds a woman, but he still needs to find his place in the world. The story in Steve's book ends when, aged 23, he takes a break from climbing and sails to Antarctica but his talk will cover some of the highlights of his life since then, including leading Britain's first guided ascent of Everest in 1993, and a remarkable *deja vu* of one of his teenage epics.

Profile: Ex-Bristolian Steve Bell started climbing in 1975 at the age of 16. He soon became one of Britain's up and coming young mountaineers, climbing the North Face of the Matterhorn when he was 18, and the infamous Eiger two years later followed by expeditions to Alaska and the Himalaya. In his early twenties he took a break from climbing, spending a season with the British Antarctic Survey before joining the Royal Marines. In 1987, along with Steve Berry, he co-founded the trekking company, Himalayan Kingdoms. He founded the mountain guiding company, Jagged Globe, and led expeditions to all of the coveted Seven Summits.

www.jagged-globe.co.uk

8. Phoebe Smith

Synopsis: Phoebe is as passionate about the outdoors as she is about travel and has written about both extensively in national and international press and has appeared on radio and TV talking wild camping, travel and women in the outdoors. In this talk she'll take you with her on a journey around the world to reveal the wildest nights out on the planet. She'll show you how you can make the most of your weekends here in the UK, unlocking some of the best places to wild camp. She recounts her 'Extreme Sleeps Challenge' in which she became the first woman to sleep solo at the extreme points of mainland Britain.



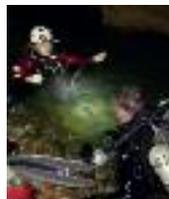
This is a Ginette Harrison Memorial lecture

Profile: Phoebe Smith likes to sleep wild. From caves to mountaintops, hanging above trees on portaledges, bedding down in bivvies on beaches and tunnelling into glaciers to sleep inside the ice. As award-winning editor of travel magazine *Wanderlust* by day, she's travelled to most corners of the globe – from Antarctica to the Arctic – on an ongoing mission to find the ultimate place to pitch a tent.. Phoebe is the author of seven books including the first and only guidebook to British bothies – *Book of the Bothy*.

www.phoebe-smith.com

9. Chris Jewell

Synopsis: Sistema Huautla is a cave system in Mexico's Sierra Mazateca mountains. It's been explored since the '60s and has been the site of multiple expeditions involving cavers from all over the world, many of them from the UK, including the founder of The Climbing Centre, the late Rob Parker; in 1994, British cave diver Ian Roland tragically died in the terminal sump. In 2013 an international team of cavers and cave divers re-launched exploration in the Huautla cave system with an expedition to dive sump 9 and go beyond what was once called "the most remote point reached inside the earth". Three years later in 2016 Chris Jewell was back in Mexico with another team, and this talk will cover the discoveries of both expeditions.



Profile: Chris Jewell is an exploratory caver and cave diver who has been able to explore new caves in the UK and abroad. He began taking part in exploratory caving expeditions in 2002, initially in Austria on the Dachstein massif. The experience gained here has allowed him to venture to new areas and greater depths. He has recently started to make short films about his adventures, taking his video camera where no one has filmed before to capture live exploration. The YouTube link below is an example from the 2013 exploration in Huatla.

youtu.be/iajDjEX6jqY

10. Martyn Ashton

Synopsis: Martyn Ashton is one of the world's most famous and recognisable mountain bike riders. In his 18 years as a pro he has been British Champion, World Champion and held a Guinness World Record for the Side-Hop, not to mention three Blue Peter badges! After suffering a life changing accident in 2013 Martyn still remains an icon within Mountain Biking, and for the last 20 years has kept pushing his riding to new levels. Over the last few years Martyn's video releases, such as the 'Road Bike Party' videos, 'Back on Track' and recently 'Down Not Out' have racked up over 40 million views!



Profile: Martyn will tell the story of his riding career and the life changing accident he suffered in 2013 following which, he says, "I have learnt so much about myself, life and what is important". Along the way he's tried many new sports and also managed to find a way to ride mountain bikes again. His talk will feature photos and videos of his riding, illustrating important moments from his extraordinary career. 'It was awesome but really hard', was his comment after his first spin around the Newport velodrome on a hand-cycle.

youtu.be/kX_hn3Xf90g

11. Sarah Outen

Synopsis: On 1 April 2011, Sarah set off on an expedition called "London2London: Via the World", arriving back at Tower Bridge in London on 3 November 2015. During this epic journey she cycled across Europe and Asia, rowed across the north pacific, and cycled across parts of America and Canada to Cape Cod, before rowing across the North Atlantic to the UK. She became the first woman to row solo from Japan to Alaska as well as the first woman to complete a mid-Pacific row from West to East. One section involved kayaking 2500km along the Aleutian island chain and Alaskan Peninsula, which involved many long crossings in uncharted waters with strong currents of unknown strength and direction and there is no documentation of anyone else completing this journey in modern times.



Profile: For an ocean rower, a childhood in land-locked Rutland would seem an unusual start in life. Nonetheless, after learning to row while a biology student at Oxford, Sarah began a stunning career as an ocean adventurer, rowing solo across the Indian Ocean, winning 3 Guinness Word Records and raising £30,000 for charities in the process.

<http://www.sarahouten.com>

12. Kev Reynolds

Synopsis: In 'A Walk in the Clouds' Kev Reynolds strays from one mountain range to another; from the Moroccan Atlas to the Peruvian Andes, from Corsica to the Caucasus, from the Alps and Pyrenees to the high Himalaya. This is a celebration of wild places and a life well-lived, tales of fun and failure; making the most of each moment.

Profile: With a lack of interest in money or career, Kev drifted through a variety of jobs until he was commissioned to write a guide to the Pyrenees. Becoming 'self-unemployed' he soon discovered that researching and writing guidebooks gave the perfect excuse to spend several months each year among the world's most scenically dramatic places. Now with more than 50 titles to his name, he reckons he is the Man with the World's Best Job, with no intention to retire. As well as producing guidebooks, Kev has managed to climb (with an appalling lack of talent or ability) in the Atlas, Turkey and Russian Caucasus, trek in the Andes and numerous parts of the Himalaya, and spend unnumbered weeks among the mountains of Europe, all at someone else's expense. Is he a Con Man - or just plain lucky?
www.kevreynolds.co.uk



13. Sandy Allan

Synopsis: In what has been described as the 'Climb of the Century' Sandy Allan and Rick Allen reached the summit of Nanga Parbat, the world's 9th highest mountain at 6pm on the 15th July 2012, having made the much-coveted first complete ascent of the Mazeno Ridge, an epic experience described in his book, 'In Some Lost Place'. The complete Mazeno Ridge is a monstrous undertaking with over 7 summits above 7000 metres to the Nanga Parbat summit. The climb lies a staggering 13km from the Mazeno pass at 5,377m, is extremely committing and is unescapable. In 2013, the ascent was awarded the highly coveted Piolet d'Or mountaineering award.

Profile: Sandy Allan is an International Mountain Guide who lives in Newtonmore, Scotland. He describes himself as having 'climbed some 8000 metres peaks and some other technical climbs here and there'. He has guided world-wide, from gentle walks to 8000m summits. He was the 5th Scotsman to climb Everest and the first Scot to climb Nanga Parbat. In recognition of his achievements, Sandy was recently elected Vice President of the Alpine Club, the world's first mountaineering club, founded in 1857.
www.teamascent.co.uk



14. Joe Johnstone

Synopsis: Joe was our Wilderness Award winner for 2016. He'll be telling the story of his successful solo unsupported crossing and return crossing of the frozen Lake Khuvsgul (Khuvsgul Nuur) in Mongolia, a total journey length of c300km which he carried out on foot. During the journey he photographed, filmed and interviewed local people to gain a snapshot of the winter way of life for those currently living on the shores of the lake where climate change and worsening ice conditions are reducing the use of the winter trade routes across the ice.

Profile: Joe Johnstone is a mountain guide, expedition leader, adventurer and documentary filmmaker. He lived in the Ger District of Ulaanbaatar for 8 months over the winter of 2013/14 and spent 3 months living with nomadic Mongolian herdsmen in 2015. That year he attempted a number of solo winter first ascents in the Mongolian Altai Mountains in temperatures of -50c. The Khuvsgul Nuur Crossing is the first of a series of expeditions that Joe is undertaking as part of the 'Last Nomad Project' which is backed by the Mongolian Arts Council and National Broadcasting Company.
www.facebook.com/joejohnstoneguiding



Other events: we occasionally run events that are not part of normal schedule. We will announce such events at our lectures, on our website, Facebook page (www.bit.ly/WLFBk) and by email, so please make sure we have your correct email address!

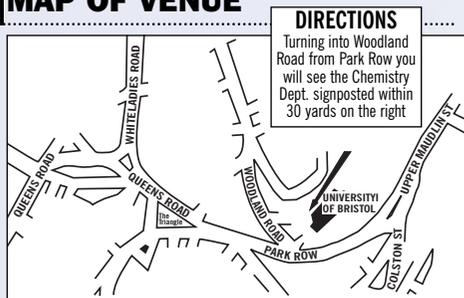
VENUE

All lectures at The Chemistry Lecture Theatre, University of Bristol, Woodland Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1TS unless otherwise noted on our website. There is a link to a map on our website.

PARKING

Use on-street parking in the roads around the Chemistry Department, or the NCP off Park Row (Trenchard Street). Please do not park at the Chemistry School itself. Further information and a map is on our website.

MAP OF VENUE



TIMES

Doors open at 7.00pm Lectures start at 7.30pm and usually last 1 - 1½ hours. Bristol traffic is notoriously difficult, please allow yourself plenty of time.

PRICES

Season Ticket: £100.00 (does not include Doug Scott or Brit Rock events)

Advance: £9.00

Door: £9.50

Concession: £8.50 (proof of status required)

For all lectures except:

Leon McCarron, Steve Bell, Martyn Ashton, Sarah Outen, Sandy Allan:

Advance: £10.00 Door: £10.50 Concession: £9.50

Doug Scott:

Advance: £15.00 Door: £18.00 no concessions

Please Note

Tickets should be purchased from Stanfords (see right) or on the door for cash (no cards). Tickets held on the door will not qualify for the advance rate. Fund raiser tickets may also be available elsewhere, see our website.

GROUP DISCOUNTS

If you represent a group, school or club and would like a bulk purchase of tickets, please contact the organisers.

TICKET SALES



In advance by telephone or visit:

Stanfords 29 Corn Street, Bristol BS1 1HT

Tel: 0117 9299966

(no postal requests or cheques, please)

Open: 9.00-18.00 Monday-Saturday

11.00-17.00 Sunday.

Credit cards accepted, cheques must be made out to Stanfords.

Or via Stanfords website:

www.stanfords.co.uk/wilderness (orders accepted until the Sunday before each lecture)

We strongly recommend that you purchase your tickets in advance as we often sell out.

PRIZE DRAW

Each year we enter all the tickets into a draw on the night of the last lecture. Major prizes will be awarded. Each completed ticket is a separate entry.

THE WILDERNESS TRAVEL AWARD

Each year we give a sizeable cash award to an individual who comes up with an exciting travel adventure idea for a unique project in a unusual destination. Apply via our website before November 30th 2016.

LECTURE ORGANISERS

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Or contact us via our website where there are full details or our programme and Award and our terms of business.

www.wildernesslectures.com

(website designed by Eye Design: www.eye-design.co.uk)