

WILD EARTH

June 2011

Who's Who at Wilderness?

Since the last edition of Wild Earth there have been a number of changes to the staff at Wilderness. Some great people have moved onto new adventures, but have been replaced by some equally great people.

Today the full time staff make up looks like this:

Directors

Peter Harvey

Richard Mayon-White

Wilderness Expertise

Charlie Eustace

Georgia Yurkwich-Spink

Mark House

(Expedition Managers)

Sean Day

(Apprentice)

Wilderness Expertise Training

Justin Tarrant

(UK Business Manager)

Carl Blunden

(UK Programme Coordinator)

Training Expertise

Jon Parry

(Business Manager)

Chris Schenk

(Training Coordinator)

Wind Sand & Stars

Fay Cox

(Business Manager)

Jo Payne

(Expedition Manager)

Equip-Me

Kim Hurley

(Business Manager)

Mick Merry

(Support Staff)

Expertise Consultancy Group (ECG)

Chris Cooper

Nicky Conway

(Financial Managers)

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Like a Phoenix from the Flames the Wilderness Expertise Newsletter, Wild Earth, has risen again!



After a few years break our Wild Earth newsletter is making a triumphant return and is here to stay! There will now be quarterly editions filled with all the latest news and views from the company, our staff and our clients. So if you feel you have something valuable to add to our future editions please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Expertise House – A New Home



After more than 15 years based at Wellington College, most of the companies in the Expertise Consultancy Group have relocated to our purpose built new premises in Bramley, just north of Basingstoke. Although the Wellington site was a great place to be, it was becoming more difficult to accommodate the different requirements of each of our businesses. The new premises have everything under one roof and this makes it far more efficient and easier for us all to work together. Wind Sand & Stars remain at their offices in Bath

With the new building, we have worked hard to maintain our ethos and commitment to operating in harmony with the environment and community in which we are based. We recycled as much of the furniture as we could from the Wellington site and any additional needs were purchased from local used office furniture suppliers. We also ensured that any work done on the new building was by local companies, using local materials.

The result is a building that we are really proud of and is a great place in which to be based. It will be our home for many years to come. We will continue to develop the site and future plans include installing solar panels, a rain water capture system, along with the planting of a natural habitat.

Please pop in for a tea or coffee if passing to see more!!



Wilderness Expertise has been as busy as ever since settling in to our shiny new office at the beginning of the year! We have 24 teams going away in 2011, which is more than we have ever had before. The destinations are far and wide including Namibia, Peru, India and Mongolia! The ethos of Wilderness Expertise is for the teams to create their own itineraries and then we work with the teams to make this itinerary a reality. Once again the teams have come up with some very full and challenging itineraries.

The year started with our annual leader training event. All of our expedition leaders for 2011 were present, as well as over half of the teachers that will be going away this summer. It was a very informative event and enabled the adult leadership teams to spend valuable time together before their expeditions.



February saw the start of our UK2 training events for the teams and these carry on right through May. The UK2 is a chance for the teams to learn a bit about what they can expect physically and mentally on the expedition with a short trip into the UK hills.

Alongside all of the hard work for 2011 we are also recruiting teams for the 2012 season and beyond. WE can work in any developing country that is safe to travel to and we are particularly interested in working with schools that have a link school that that may wish to visit. We are currently working with a couple of schools that travel back to their link school with a different set of students each year. If you would be interested in discussing this further please contact Georgia (georgia@wilderness-expertise.co.uk).

We would also like to welcome a new member of the overseas team; Sean has started as an apprentice with a view to developing into an Expedition Manager. After finishing University Sean spent four months travelling round Asia, Australia and South Africa before arriving at our door. He is keen to get stuck into the role and get out and about to meet our current participants and hopefully recruit a few more!



Open Gold Opportunities - UK & Overseas Expeditions & Residential

Wilderness Expertise can now provide expeditions for individuals or groups to complete the Expedition and Residential sections of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We regularly have open assessments running in Morocco and would be happy to discuss other destinations for school groups or youth organisations.

We are also able to offer practice and training in addition to the assessment.

We currently have dates available throughout July, August, September, October 2011 and the options available are:

1. Expedition Assessment, Dartmoor from £230
 2. Practice Expedition, Lake District from £230
 3. Expedition Assessment, Lake District from £230
 4. Residential, Lake District from £400
 5. Expedition Assessment, Morocco from £1325
 6. Expedition Assessment and Residential, Morocco from £1500
- All inclusive. Travel to airport or UK start point not included.

If you would like to know more please visit our website or contact us directly.



Contact Us

www.wilderness-expertise.co.uk
info@wilderness-expertise.co.uk
 +44 (0)1256 886543

Trainer Profile



Denise Gray

Which parts of the business do you work for?

Mainly UK but this year will be working as an assistant on an overseas trip to Ghana

And how long have you worked with Wilderness?

15 months – feels like longer (for good reasons)

Previous Career?

Still work as CSD (sometimes known as Chief Sandwich Dispenser) for British Airways.

Who do you most admire & why?

My friend who has a brain tumour & who everyone thought would not be here within a year – they show that determination, a sense of humour & a huge positive attitude can achieve so much!

What is your greatest achievement?

A bit corny, but raising two lovely kids.

What is your greatest ambition?

To get Justin to make a cup of tea when I am in the office!

If you were a country where would you be and why?

UK – Very adaptable & full of surprises!



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Wilderness Expertise Training has been increasingly busy over the last couple of years and we are pleased to be entering our second consecutive year with over 1000 trainer days booked! A large number of these are through schools and organisations who return to us year after year due to the positive experiences they receive from the company and our trainers. We aim to build similar relationships with increasing numbers of clients over the next few years.

The fantastic courses we deliver would not be possible without the experience, dedication and all round greatness of the trainers we use and as always we extend our thanks to you all. Our pool of trainers is always expanding as more and more good trainers are looking to become more involved with Wilderness Expertise Training, and this year alone we have allocated work to over 100 different trainers. Our aim is to provide our trainers with the same high standards that they provide to us and we are continuing to put systems and procedures into place to make the experience of working with us a positive and valuable one.



Our staff team has changed somewhat over the last 12 months with Carl Blunden coming in as the full time UK programme coordinator to help us to meet our objective of providing our trainers and clients with the organisational support they require, and to support Justin in the running of the business unit. Elaine Brown, a long time trainer throughout the companies, is now acting as our trainer coordinator, managing the recruitment, induction and development of our freelance trainer base. Denise Gray is also still around the office on a part time basis looking after trainers CRB and qualifications records on our database, and she also works as a trainer on a number of our courses. All are doing their utmost to make things easier for our trainers and clients, but they welcome any feedback on how they could do more if any of you have any suggestions.



It's been an exciting and busy time for Training Expertise as we've evolved and adapted to the recent turbulent trading conditions! We've recruited a business apprentice, further developed our training portfolio, designed an Outdoor Leader CPD programme and recently opened a driving school! All this whilst maintaining our core focus on providing high quality, practical and innovative training programmes for organisations and individuals who operate in the outdoors!



New Driving School and HSE First Aid initiative!

Need to learn to drive or know of anyone who does then come to us! Yes, we now run driving lessons for learners in response to demand as well as a means to develop our driver trainer capacity for our higher end specialist courses. Prices are very competitive at £23.50 per hour if booked as 5 x 2 hour sessions. In conjunction with this we will be expanding our delivery of HSE First Aid again in response to demand and as means to develop trainers for our specialist programmes. Again, training will be very competitively priced whilst providing the highest quality training!

The driver training will be headed up by Kevin Mann (kevin@training-expertise.co.uk) who is a very experienced driver trainer having delivered training for learner drivers to specialist off-road, winter skills training in Russia for Mining companies! The First Aid training will be headed up by Jon Parry (jon@training-expertise.co.uk) the Training Expertise Business Manager.

If you are interested in delivering the above training and increasing your training skill portfolio then please do get in touch with Jon Parry in the first instance on 07764 894470 or jon@training-expertise.co.uk.

Course Dates

Level 2 First Aid

11-12 June
16-17 July
13-14 August
3-4 September
10-11 September

£120 (ex VAT)

Level 4E First Aid

24-25 Sept
£180 (ex VAT)

Wilderness First Responder

13-18 June
£600 (ex VAT)

Trainer Induction Day – Monday 20th June 2011

If you're interested in training for Training Expertise then now's your opportunity to find out more. We're running a Trainer Induction day at our office in Bramley on 20th June 2011. It is essential you attend this before you can be considered for work. If interested please contact Jon Parry.



Contact Us

Phone 01256 886543
07764 894470
Email jon@training-expertise.co.uk
Website www.training-expertise.co.uk

Shape Up for Sinai!

Roads, parks and off-road trails are bustling with runners all shaping up for summer, which is why Wind Sand & Stars is offering the chance to channel all that hard training to running the Sharm half marathon this coming November. This unique challenge incorporates a 21.09km mixed terrain race within the beautiful UNESCO Ras Mohammed National Park in South Sinai.

Whilst skirting the turquoise waters of the Red Sea, you'll be running in the company of herons and fishing eagles with your every pace helping to support Bedouin Communities through South Sinai's very first Community Foundation.

Fay Cox explains "we have been working with the same Bedouin tribes for over 20 years. Whilst we offer fun, challenging and educational journeys to those who travel with us, we have also been providing direct employment and have delivered a number of local development projects, underpinning our strong commitment to small-scale, grass roots development."

Integral to this journey is the privilege of spending a night in the desert with our longstanding Bedouin friends, and a chance to see the community project that a percentage of your journey fee will have contributed to.

The journey includes: Bedouin community project donation, flights, acclimatisation, 7 nights in a four-star resort, local transport, travel insurance, full board and a 2 day, 1 night desert interior excursion.

To discuss this journey in further detail please contact Jo Payne at jo@windsandstars.co.uk



Wind Sand & Stars

Specialists in the Sinai Desert & Mountains

The lure of the desert is often the inspiration for first time travel with Wind Sand & Stars. Our Spring 2011 season welcomed two new schools, in addition to four schools returning with new groups to experience the beauty of Sinai. We kept abreast of political developments through our excellent ground handlers. After careful assessment and following the Foreign Office Travel Advice, all of our groups were able to depart as planned for South Sinai, which was calm and safe, being so remote from Cairo and the mainland.

All journeys ran incredibly smoothly with everyone returning home full of memories of the Bedouin hospitality, stunning scenery, spectacular weather (including snow on Mount Sinai) and, not least, riding their camel in true nomad style.



As well as school groups we ran two adult journeys and our last departure of the season introduced Cambridge scholar and author Professor Janet Soskice as guest speaker for the Historical Odyssey, *"Janet's presence's made the journey so meaningful. Her remarkable knowledge and storytelling helped make the journey unforgettable"*.

We are now looking ahead to our autumn departures with a wonderful mix of experiences on offer from the Adventure Into Silence in October, to a gruelling desert half marathon in November.

For further information on any of our journeys, please contact Fay or Jo.

Contact us

Phone 01225 320 839

Email fay@windsandstars.co.uk
jo@windsandstars.co.uk

Website www.windsandstars.co.uk



equipment for remote areas

The outdoor season is now in full swing with a large amount of outdoor kit being rented. Bookings are coming in on a regular basis and being collected by our UK and Overseas Trainers. Medical training kit is also being rented for overseas and local training courses a couple of times a week.

The equipment store facilities at the new office have given us the opportunity to vastly improve the services we can offer to clients, as well as making our lives a whole lot simpler!



Now that the stores are in close proximity to Wilderness and Training Expertise we are able to communicate regularly in order to get any equipment ready, or to make adjustments to previously ordered kit. Kit is loaded directly onto vehicles from the warehouse through its roll-up doors and transported to areas where training or expeditions are taking place.

The new stores have also given us a chance to keep all our supplies secure in an easy accessible and safe environment. The new drying room with the heaters and dehumidifiers has given us a much quicker turnaround time for tents.

The secure medical room has provided us with an area where we can store, collate first aid kit and keep track of all our medical supplies. Medical training equipment is also prepared here.

If you have yet to see these new facilities, please feel free to stop by next time you are in the office and see Kim or Mick who will be happy to show you around.

Contact us

Phone 01256 886543 or call Kim directly on 07802 450 115

Email kim@equip-me.co.uk

Website www.equip-me.co.uk



Sentinel Consulting continues to lead the field in the sphere of operational safety management for organisations working in remote locations.

We continue to be involved with a wide range of projects around the world.

We have been supporting field activities for clients in central Africa by providing services and staff. We have also provided personnel to support field trips in North America, Africa, Southern Europe and Asia. We are also actively engaged in research projects and have just completed a groundbreaking benchmarking study of global malaria chemo prophylaxis policies.

Naomi Roberts has just returned from maternity leave, and will be taking over the running of the business from 1st April, alongside continuing to be a mummy to Emily and Christopher!

