

WILD EARTH

October 2011

A Fond Farewell

As well as welcoming some new members to the team, we have also supported others in their move to new opportunities outside the Group and we wish them all the best in the future.

Charlie Eustace

After nearly 4 years as an expedition manager with WE, Charlie has succumbed to her wanderlust and heads off into the sunset! As one of life's free spirits, Charlie felt that she needed to explore pastures new. We all look forward to hearing about the next steps on her journey!



Nicky Conway

After 6 years with ECG, first as an expedition manager and more recently as a finance manager, Nicky has moved on to take up a role with the Oxford University Press. We supported her career development towards becoming a management accountant and she now has the opportunity to hone her bean counting skills in a much larger organisation.



ECG Update Autumn 2011

The companies in the Expertise Consultancy Group continue to enjoy healthy trading, despite the ongoing challenges with the global economy. We have been able to maintain our growth and development plans, and have attained the high standards of quality that we demand.

One of the successes of the last 6 months has been our continued ability to provide personal and professional development for the teams within our businesses. For some this has meant new challenges within ECG, whilst our growth has also allowed us to welcome several new people to the businesses.

New Additions to the team

Isaac Hernandez

Isaac has joined ECG as Management Accountant. He is responsible for the strategic management of the business finances. He brings a wealth of knowledge with him and being Spanish, has added to the linguistic abilities within the Group.

Rob Wallbank

Rob has joined WE as an Expedition Manager. Having worked previously for TUI in the UK, Europe and Central America, Rob brings experience of the travel industry and wider commercial knowledge. In his spare time, Rob enjoys playing the guitar and claims to speak Turkish!

Antonia Cook

Having recently left the Army, Antonia joins the WE team as an Expedition Manager. She has experience of running military expeditions in Europe, Africa and South America. As the owner of a classic sports car, we are sure she'll have plenty of opportunity to put her mechanical skills into practise!

Joe Riley

Following a move down south and a brief foray to Morocco, Joe has joined the Equip-me team. Joe will be focusing on the sales of specialist equipment to our expedition and exploration clients. As an ardent Middlesbrough FC fan, Joe ensures that we all have a good laugh on a Monday morning!

New Roles within the team

Mark House

Following 3 years as an expedition manager with Wilderness, Mark is stepping across to take on the business management of Equip-me. For those of you who have endured his detailed description of the various waterproof properties of Goretex, you will know that he has taken to his new role like a duck to water!

Georgia Yurkwich-Spink

Georgia has taken on the position of Senior Expedition Manager, heading up the Wilderness Expertise team. She will be looking to build on the great reputation enjoyed by WE with her heady mix of passion & professionalism.



Wilderness Expertise has celebrated a successful expedition season during which we visited many amazing destinations. Participants have had the opportunity to learn, develop and challenge themselves in some truly diverse environments, from the tropical rainforests of the Amazon, to some of the highest mountain peaks in Africa, with a touch of the Mongolian Steppe and alpine-esque Shimla thrown in for good measure!

The feedback we have received this year has been fantastic! It's wonderful to hear that the expeditions we feel so passionately about, really are having a lasting positive impact on those we send overseas. We would like to thank everyone that has made 2011 such a huge success; the teachers, leaders, participants and parents alike!

'I am more aware of my strengths and limitations both as a leader and team member. I have gained insights and numerous practical skills that will help me in future endeavours. I also think that I know myself much better and the expedition has helped me to accept who I am.' **Expedition Team Member**

'I can't recommend Wilderness Expertise enough: great, enthusiastic, dedicated staff; fun, pertinent and thorough training; an exciting exercise in personal development for the students; and a wonderful 'overall' experience. I hope to do lots more expeditions with them.' **Liaison Teacher**

'The support, communication, expedition coordination and organisation were excellent...' **Parent of participant**



Our team has a new look to it with Antonia and Rob joining recently and they have hit the ground running as we are already very busy preparing for 2012. We have teams travelling to Central Africa, South America, Eastern Europe and South East Asia, with Cambodia being the most popular choice for 2012. UK1 training is well under way and a lot of the teams are coming up with unique and exciting itineraries.

Together the new team will be working very hard to continue to provide high quality overseas expeditions.

Oggie 8 Challenge

We do get out of the office every now and again and on the 6th August a WE team took part in the Oggie 8; a challenging race over eight 3000ft peaks in the Ogwen Valley, in support of the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team. The team; 'Los Flacos Beracos', comprised of Charlie Eustace, Sean Day, Jim Lewis, Steve Gray & Adam Juniper.



Our team finished 6th with a time of 9hrs 5mins, whilst Charlie finished as the 1st female competitor overall. But more importantly we managed to raise over £500 for the Mountain Rescue team.

Hooray for us!



Contact Us

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Trainer Profile



Angie White

Which parts of the business do you work for?

WET, WE, TE and WSS.

And how long have you worked with Wilderness?

8 years

Previous Career?

Residential Care Worker

Who do you most admire & why?

Ernest Shackleton – great courage and determination and he managed to command so much respect from his team.

What is your greatest achievement?

Walking from Lands end to John O'Groats in 4 weeks carrying everything

What is your greatest ambition?

To be able to play the saxophone well enough that people would want to listen.

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

Italy - fantastic food, friendly people who really care about their family and friends, stunning coastline, historical cities that seem to have gone unchanged for centuries and a musical language.



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Phew!! We have safely navigated our way through another successful but hectic spring-summer season where we delivered some fantastic courses to over 2000 students, from 37 different clients. The feedback on all of these courses has been fantastic and they have continued to enrich the lives of all the students we work with.

As always we must say a huge thank you to our pool of trainers and staff who have been critical in making the season such a success. Overall we delivered 1500 training days and the quality of these has been consistently high thanks to the hard work and skills of the 100+ trainers involved. We couldn't do it without you, and we look forward to working with you all again next season.

The New Season

After what seems like a very short pause to catch our breath, we are now off and running again preparing for the next busy year where we hope to have even more clients, courses and trainer days. Both old and new schools to us are now sending in their confirmed dates and our diary is rapidly filling up which is great news! If you are a trainer please keep your eyes peeled for emails containing course dates over the coming months.

Training Day

On November 15th we will be running our first training day for existing trainers at the Sir John Lowther Activity Centre in Kettering. The day will provide a great opportunity for our trainers to learn a bit more about what has been happening at WET over the last 12 months, share their own ideas and thoughts about the company, and to network and share best practice with other trainers. It should be a great day and we look forward to seeing those attending. If you have not already signed up to this and would like to attend please contact us ASAP.

New(ish) Additions

Working more closely with the office team in the coming year will be the 'Dynamic Gray Duo', Steve and Denise. As some of you will already know Denise has been working hard throughout the summer months in the role of trainer liaison, making sure that our trainer files, qualifications and CRBs are up to date, as well as taking over the responsibility of organising trainer inductions. Meanwhile, Steve has recently agreed to take on the part-time role of DoFE coordinator where he will liaise closely with the majority of our schools and CDs involved in the DoFE programme. We know he will do a fantastic job of this, and it will only make the courses we run even stronger!





There have been a few exciting changes at Training Expertise with Kevin Mann now joining the team full time and Jon Parry stepping away from the office some to do more delivery. Chris Schenk is still in the office making sure all the courses happen with his usual eye for detail! We're looking forward to another busy time over the next few months.

Training Overseas

We have been travelling a fair bit over the past few months. We have delivered defensive driver training to an exploration company in Egypt, and are about to go out to Eritrea. We have also delivered an exciting package of First Aid, Driver Training and Incident Management to another exploration team based in Senegal. Coming up we're training Community Health Workers in Kenya as part of a sustainable development programme with an NGO.

Training Expertise Driving School

This is continuing to grow, with a range of courses for individuals, schools and companies. Other than the normal range of lessons just for learners, we also offer:

- Pass-Plus for newly qualified drivers,
- B+E courses for towing trailers
- Adverse weather driving courses
- Off Road driving courses
- LANTRA qualifications
- For schools, colleges and organisations using Minibuses we are now members of the MiDAS scheme.



Due to the increase in driving courses now being delivered, we are looking to recruit more ADIs and PDIs. If you are an existing trainer or would like to work with TE as a driver trainer, contact Kevin on kevin@training-expertise.co.uk

Trainer Induction Day – Tues 8th Nov 2011

If you are interested in delivering 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 8th Nov 2011. If interested please contact Chris on chris@training-expertise.co.uk.

RGS Explore conference – 19-20 Nov 2011

We will have a stand at the RGS explore conference this year. Based at the RGS (with IBG) in Kensington, London, it's a great opportunity to gain ideas and contacts if you're planning an expedition. To book a place go to the RGS website www.rgs.org/explore

Course Dates

HSE Emergency First Aid at Work

2 December

£75 (ex VAT)

HSE First Aid at Work

6-8 December

£165 (ex VAT)

Level 2 First Aid

12-13 November

3-4 December

£120 (ex VAT)

Level 4E First Aid

26-27 November

£180 (ex VAT)

Wilderness First Responder

26-31 March 2012

£600 (ex VAT)

Driving Lessons (Learners)

From £23 p/h (inc VAT)

RLSS Water Safety

Register Interest Now

MIDAS Minibus Training

Register Interest Now



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Wind Sand & Stars journeys for 2012

Sinai Discovery – A Desert Adventure

1st – 8th April 2012

We are so often asked by parents whether they can come too! This Easter journey offers the perfect introduction to the beauty of South Sinai and its Bedouin people. A delightful 8-day journey for family groups with children from 10 to teens.

Hidden Ethiopia

16-27 April 2012

Discover the hidden depths and extensive culture of rock-hewn churches and ancient ceremonies of the Tigre Region. From the splendour of the geometrically designed Debre Selam church through to the ancient ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace, this impressive environment is matched only by the warm Ethiopian hospitality en-route.

Historical Odyssey

26th April – 3rd May 2012

With guest speaker Professor Janet Soskice, Cambridge scholar and author of *Sisters of Sinai: How Two lady Adventurers Found the Hidden Gospels*. A gentle adventure following ancient pilgrim routes through the desert exploring historical sites including St Catherine's Monastery.

Adventure into Silence

7th – 14th October 2012

Guest speaker Sara Maitland will return to guide and inspire us in experiencing the desert silence, drawing from *A Book of Silence*, her highly acclaimed book on the subject.

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Wind Sand & Stars

Specialists in the Sinai Desert & Mountains



We are in the midst of a busy autumn season and, as our British skies turn grey, a number of groups are currently out in Sinai enjoying warm desert days and star-filled evenings around the camp fire.

Behind the scenes, our recent annual leader day was a valuable meeting of experienced and new leaders, involving a thorough briefing on our safety procedures. Discussions covered our environmental impact, hygiene and the finer points of camel handling, with an overall focus on maintaining the high quality of our operations for everyone involved; from the pupils and their parents, to teaching staff, as well as our hosts, the Bedouin.

Looking ahead, regular schools and new schools are being confirmed for 2012. In addition to our school trips, families and individuals can travel with us and we have a wonderful mix of experiences lined up for 2012, from historical journeys to more challenging desert adventures.

Further afield we are very excited to offer two new destinations in 2012:

Ethiopia

Carefully selected and in keeping with our ethos, our first Ethiopia departure is scheduled for next April. There is tremendous potential for school journeys through this country of ancient and breathtaking extremes. It is rich in history and home to a myriad of ancient sites including incredible rock-hewn churches. Routes can offer glimpses of impressive landscapes including the great African Rift Valley and the Danakil Depression.

Olympic Odyssey

By contrast, the Olympic Odyssey is a unique opportunity to explore this iconic sporting event's past and future. This is a fascinating five-day journey through Olympic history,

starting at the birthplace of the games in the heart of ancient Greece, founded by the Greek god Zeus and his son Heracles. From Greek mythology and ancient ruins to the modern arenas built for Athens 2004, we shall retrace stories of the Olympics through time. We finish our journey in London, poised for our very own games in 2012.





equipment for remote areas

It has been a very busy time for equip-me over the past few months with Wilderness Expertise teams from UK schools heading out to destinations as diverse as Mongolia, Ecuador, Ghana and Morocco, to name but a few! Equip-me provided the basic items for these teams such as tents and stoves through to more specialised equipment like mosquito nets, buoyancy aids and riding helmets. Despite the volume of kit that has been prepared we have been able to ensure that the many diverse kit requirements were met so that all expeditions were suitably equipped for the adventure that awaited them!

In addition to this we've also been providing resources for Wilderness Expertise UK-based events, such as training for future overseas expeditions and school activity camps, which has meant that a lot of use has been made of our wide range of team-building equipment as well as more traditional expedition gear. In addition to this we've also had to carry out regular 'housekeeping' tasks such as reproofing our stock of 200+ tents, a job best done outside on a dry day: given the rather intermittent nature of summer!



But that's not all we've been up to. As well as these aspects of our business, another service we offer is the provision of medical training equipment to our in-house experts, Training Expertise. The ability to successfully apply such expertise in the field is of paramount importance, so once again our priority must be the quality of the kit we supply.

Not that we're resting on our laurels at present and taking a (dare we say it?) well-earned rest. We're implementing a rolling programme of updating existing equipment and sourcing new kit that we believe will be useful for future training events, activity days and expeditions and which will enable us to provide a more comprehensive service than before. So you can say that it's all go at the moment with Equip Me, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

Contact us

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Sentinel Consulting continues to enjoy an expanding client base and an increasing global presence. The last 12 months have seen us establish Sentinel Consulting USA to service the business in North America. We are also starting the process of setting up an office in South Africa.



The next few months will hopefully see us complete the set up of a 24hr on call expedition medical support function, supporting expedition and exploration teams operating in wilderness and remote environments. The service will also be available to independent travellers. The service is geared towards affordable access to medical support.

For more information, please contact Naomi Roberts:
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