

5th Week – Thursday 13th November
Peruvian Orchid Expedition

Latin America is home to over 20,000 orchid species, with Peru accounting for 10% of this number. The 2008 Peruvian Orchid Expedition was an ambitious project to explore the diversity of the Orchids and their intimately intertwined relationship with their habitats. The expedition took the team through montane cloud forests, high-Andean Puna grasslands, and the lower evergreen rainforests of the Inter-Oceanic Highway. Members from the team will be talking about their experiences, and the beautiful macro photographs of the Orchids they discovered.

6th Week – Thursday 20th November
Richard Brett-Knowles – The British North Greenland Expedition, 1952-1954

Richard Brett-Knowles is a captivating man who puts on a thoroughly engrossing presentation. An Oxford alumni and former Royal Navy Officer he participated in the BNGE as an assistant Seismologist and manager of communications. He was present for the entirety of the two year expedition and was awarded the Polar Medal by the Queen upon his return. According to Lt. Brett-Knowles, “The BNGE was a major expedition in the Scott tradition, fielded from July 1952 to July 1954, though not all of the 30 members stayed for both years. Unfortunately one did not return. Its purpose was three-fold: scientific exploration, training of the service members in an Arctic environment, and ‘Showing the Flag.’” It promises to be a fascinating evening.

7th Week – Thursday 27th November
Film night - Information forthcoming

8th Week – Thursday 4th December
Benedict Allen – Jungles

Our grand finale for Michaelmas term, Benedict Allen is recognized as one of Britain’s leading adventurers. His approach to exploration is to completely immerse himself in extreme or alien environments, travelling alone and learning from the indigenous people. According to the Sunday Times, “whether in danger or lonely or undergoing various exotic rituals, he has effectively taken the viewers’ experience of adventure as far as it can go.” He is the author of nine books on his adventures and seven television documentaries including the reality show ‘Unbreakable’ which is currently showing at 9PM Monday evenings on Five. You can find more information about this ‘modern day explorer’ here: www.benedictallen.com.