



OXFORD CENTENNIAL ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS

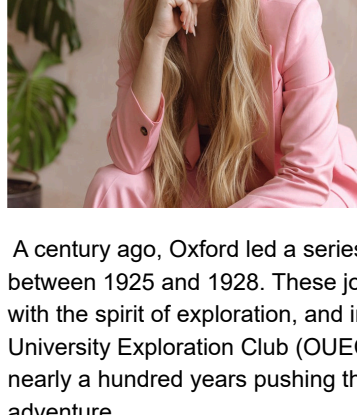
November 2025

Welcome from Our Expedition Leaders • November Events •
The Swiss Society Mountain Medicine Training with Lukas
Krone

Welcome to the Inaugural Newsletter of the Oxford Centennial Arctic Expeditions

Sofya Lebedeva
Co-Founder & Project Lead

Carla Fuenteslópez
Co-Founder & Project Lead



A century ago, Oxford led a series of pioneering Arctic expeditions between 1925 and 1928. These journeys combined scientific curiosity with the spirit of exploration, and inspired the founding of the Oxford University Exploration Club (OUEC) in 1927, which has since spent nearly a hundred years pushing the boundaries of discovery and adventure.

100 years of Oxford's exploration history at the Bodle

Henrike Lähnemann



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[Click here](#) to view 100 years of Oxford's Exploration history by our historian, Jean-Luc Portner.

Now, we are retracing those original routes, a century later, but with a renewed purpose and under a new lens. Our expeditions will revisit some of the same landscapes while reimagining what exploration means in the 21st century. We aim to carry forward the wonder and discovery of the past while leaving behind the outdated narratives that once defined exploration. Instead, we embrace exploration that is culturally aware, sustainable, and collaborative.

We recognise that the history of exploration has too often been shaped by exclusion and exploitation, shaped by colonial attitudes and a lack of diverse voices. The Oxford Centennial Arctic Expeditions actively challenge that legacy. We've built a team that values and reflects a commitment to equity, cultural respect, and partnership with Arctic communities. Gender balance, interdisciplinary dialogue, and ethical engagement are at the core of how we operate.

In 2025, we completed our Foundations Expedition, and are now preparing for the upcoming Reconnaissance Expeditions in 2026, which will take us to Norway, Greenland, and Iceland. These expeditions will help us build partnerships, refine our research methods, and lay the groundwork for the 2027 Centenary Expeditions.

By honouring the past while reshaping the story of exploration, we hope to create a model that celebrates both scientific progress and human connection. We're excited to share this journey with you, and to invite you to join us as we chart a new course for exploration in the Arctic and beyond.

— Sofya Lebedeva & Carla Fuenteslópez

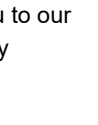


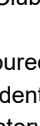
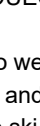
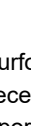
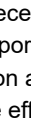
2026 Expeditions Launch
with Polar Explorer Dr Cat Burford

Cohen Quad, Exeter College

Sat 22 Nov 2025 (Week 6)
14:45 for 15:00h start

No entry fee but registration required:
<https://shorturl.at/Wh1iB>

Sign up here 

Co-sponsored by   **EXETER COLLEGE OXFORD**  [oxford.100.arctic.expeds](https://www.oxford100arcticexpeditions.com/)  www.oxford100arcticexpeditions.com/

The Oxford Centennial Arctic Expeditions Team welcomes you to our inaugural event to celebrate 100 years of the Oxford University Exploration Club (OUEC).

We are honoured to welcome Dr Cat Burford to Oxford as our guest speaker – a dentist and explorer who recently became one of only 13 women in history to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole. In 2026 she will be leading an all-female team on a Northwest Traverse of Svalbard, which aims to emphasise the effects of climate change in the Arctic.

Spend an afternoon enjoying stories from the Polar Regions, hearing about historic OUEC expeditions, and meeting the current students who are planning the future of exploration from Oxford. [Click here to RSVP](#).



Black Tie Guest Night Dinner

Celebrate the 2026 launch of Oxford Centennial Arctic Expeditions with an unforgettable evening with Polar Explorer Dr Cat Burford
13th woman to ski solo and unsupported to the South Pole

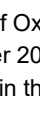
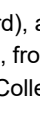
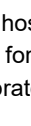
Pre-Dinner Drinks & 4-course Dinner

£200
£150 for students

All proceeds will support our student-led Arctic research teams

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/dinnernov25>

Exeter College - Sunday, 23 November 19-22:30h

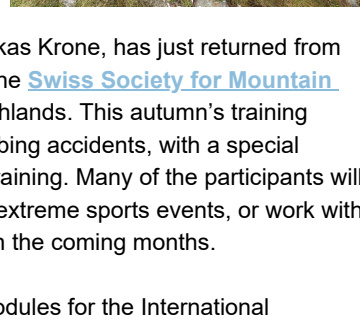
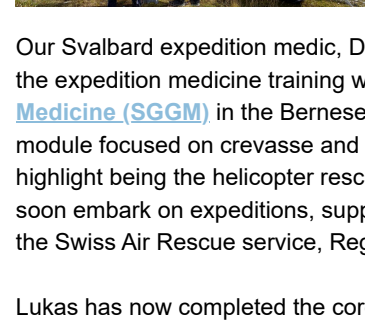
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The Oxford Centennial Arctic Expeditions Team and Exeter College (University of Oxford), are honoured to host Dr Cat Burford on Sunday, 23 November 2025, from 19:00-22:30h for an exclusive black-tie guest night dinner in the College Hall to celebrate the launch of the 2026 Arctic Expeditions.

Support our fundraising campaign and enjoy an unforgettable evening with Dr Burford, including pre-dinner drinks, a four-course meal, and second desserts at Exeter College — one of Oxford's oldest and most beautiful colleges at the heart of the city. Our guest will share personal insights into her unsupported solo ski journey across Antarctica to the South Pole and her upcoming traverse of Svalbard.

All profits from dinner tickets will support three student-led Arctic research teams conducting fieldwork in Svalbard, Greenland, and Iceland in 2026. Tickets are £200 (£150 for students with a valid student ID). [Click here to RSVP](#).

The Swiss Society for Mountain Medicine Training with Lukas Krone



Our Svalbard expedition medic, Dr Lukas Krone, has just returned from the expedition medicine training with the [Swiss Society for Mountain Medicine \(SGGM\)](#) in the Bernese Highlands. This autumn's training module focused on crevasse and climbing accidents, with a special highlight being the helicopter rescue training. Many of the participants will soon embark on expeditions, support extreme sports events, or work with the Swiss Air Rescue service, Rega, in the coming months.

Lukas has now completed the core modules for the International Certificate in Wilderness and Expedition Medicine, which also includes training in traumatology, hypothermia, altitude sickness, avalanche rescue, and pain management. A major component of the program involves practicing rescue scenarios in the mountains, making it both a true adventure and a team challenge.

Lukas' expedition medicine training has been generously supported by Exeter College, Oxford, where he serves as the Staines Medical Research Fellow. His research investigates sleep-regulatory mechanisms in mice with the aim of developing novel treatments for sleep disorders.

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