



November 2017, 1030 miles on foot: Ben Saunders embarks on Henry Worsley's Antarctic legacy

**Dinner at Stowe in support of The Endeavour Fund
20th October 2017**

In early November 2017, record-breaking polar explorer Ben Saunders will set out to make the first solo and unsupported crossing of Antarctica. This 1030-mile west-to-east traverse from Berkner Island to the Ross Ice Shelf via the South Pole and the Shackleton Glacier was planned by Ben's friend, and Old Stoic, Lt Col Henry Worsley, who nearly completed the expedition before falling ill and passing away in hospital in Chile in January 2016. The journey remains unfinished.

Ben Saunders is uniquely qualified to complete this expedition. A career-long polar specialist with a world-class support team, he has covered more distance on skis – in 11 expeditions – than any British explorer in history. He holds the record for the longest solo Arctic journey by a Briton, and the outright record for the longest ever polar journey on foot, set during his 1800-mile, 108-day Scott Expedition.

Lt Col Henry Worsley was an officer in the British Army for 36 years, spending more than two decades serving with special forces, and a polar explorer with two major Antarctic expeditions to his name, both coast-to-South Pole journeys on foot. Henry was also a friend of Ben's for more than a decade; he sent Ben photographs and handwritten notes to help him navigate the Beardmore Glacier, Henry was wearing Ben's skis and jacket on his final expedition, and Ben's words were read at his funeral.

It is Ben's belief that the most fitting way to honour his friend is to complete his expedition, and to build on his legacy by raising funds for Henry's chosen cause, The Endeavour Fund, a charity established to assist injured servicemen and women and which is part of The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry.

In January 2017, Ben helped to open the newly built Worsley Science Centre at Stowe School, and is honoured to be contributing to the extraordinary association Henry had with the School.

The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (registered company no: 7033553) and a registered charity (registered charity no: 1132048). Registered office: St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BS

How to support Ben and The Endeavour Fund

Bid in the auction to hear Ben's story first-hand

At dinner on the 20th October, we will be auctioning two 'Money can't buy' prizes; a day's hillwalking with Ben, and an exclusive talk from Ben following his return from Antarctica in 2018, which would suit both a private or corporate event.

Donate to The Endeavour Fund and support Ben's Christmas day miles

You are able to donate directly to The Endeavour Fund via Ben's Virgin Giving page - **uk.virginmoneygiving.com/polarben**

Stowe School will be sending Ben some Christmas joy by sponsoring his Christmas day mileage on the ice. Ben will be blogging from Antarctica, as he did on his last Scott Expedition, and Stowe supporters will receive Christmas Day thanks from Ben in his tent. If you would like to receive a Christmas mention - maybe as a Christmas present for younger explorers-to-be! - send an email with the name of the person you'd like mentioned, once you have made your donation, to pip@bensaunders.com.

Sponsor the Trans-Antarctic Solo Expedition

If you or your organisation wish to sponsor Ben's expedition, a small number of opportunities exist alongside presenting partner Canada Goose and supporting partners Land Rover and Bremont. Please contact pip@bensaunders.com to find out more.

Spread the word and follow the Expedition

You can follow Ben on his journey across Antarctica via his website, **bensaunders.com**, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, @**polarben**. Please do share with friends and family.