



Sally Anne Dalman, from Jersey joined the India Spring 2008 expedition as Assistant Logistics Manager.

Before Raleigh I was working in compliance for an offshore bank. I was bored, bored, bored of my life as it is. I was too scared to make a complete career or life change thought this may give me the kick up the bum required to get on with it!

I was attracted to Raleigh mainly by its reputation. If it's good enough for Prince William, it's good enough for me! And I live very near to John Blashford-Snell in Jersey. I also know a guy who helped him set it up years ago.

My main responsibility was providing the food for the alpha groups. I had to make sure they got sufficient calories depending on the work they were doing. Issuing kit was another role, and making sure it was all repaired and handed back in good condition.

I found it challenging working with local Indian men on occasion; being a woman puts you at a disadvantage sometimes. I learned to be more bossy and push myself forwards so they would listen to me. Diplomacy was a skill I tried to learn (but I'm not sure if I succeeded!) I have always worked in a small, experienced team or on my own, so working with lots of people, all new to their jobs can be frustrating. The hard skills used in my job is on the practical side – trangias, tents, building stuff. I am a practical person, however, so that wasn't too difficult. As I wasn't a PM (project manager), I didn't need to use too many soft skills.

The highlights for me have been learning about the kit required for an expedition and the food that is required. Learning about how things work in India as opposed to how they work in the UK. Seeing how an expedition is set up and the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, before the PMs arrive. Working with experienced staff from other Raleigh expeditions. As a result I have become more confident in myself and my abilities. I have done things well that I didn't think I would be able to do. For example, a barbeque for 65 people!

Overall, I've loved it. It can be a bit slow at times but that's because it's so new and isn't running at full capacity, and I would recommend it to others. The opportunity to visit other countries, experience other cultures; you don't really get to see that when you stay somewhere for a two-week holiday. The PMs especially get to see more of the country, and integrate more in the villages.