



## SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - July 2012

*President: Mike Lea,*

*Vice Presidents: Andrea Anderson and John Peden*

*Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Helen Thomson*

*Committee members: Chris Calver, Ronan Dugan, Chris Gilmore,  
Stella Spratley and Fraser Sutherland*

[www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk](http://www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk)

*New members are welcome: the Club is for people of all ages and nationalities who have an interest in the Arctic, particularly if they have already been, or are planning to travel there.*

*See the web site for an application form.*

### 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gathering and Supper

9th to 11th November 2012

Scotland's Hotel, Pitlochry

Phone number 01796 484 900

[www.crerarhotels.com](http://www.crerarhotels.com)

For 2012 we return to Pitlochry. The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The hotel has been booked for the nights of Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>. Dinner, bed and breakfast - rate per person, per night in a double room is £52.

Further details plus the booking form for the Annual Gathering will be circulated with the next newsletter.

### **Reminder: BOOK DATES in your diaries and RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM**

#### **Report on the 2012 SPRING MEET - Attadale Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

This year's spring meeting took place again at Attadale Estate near Strathcarron in Wester Ross. A total of 19 members and friends stayed for varying lengths of time in three attractive cottages in the grounds of Attadale House. The garden at Attadale was looking lovely - full of colour and in immaculate condition and the MacPhersons and all the members of their staff were friendly and helpful.

In general we were very lucky with the weather and although mostly rather cool for the time of year when you were sheltered from the northeast winds the sun was warm. Attadale is an excellent base for a wide variety of activities. Most of us took various walks and climbs, long and short, high and low in Applecross, the Shieldaig and Loch Torridon area, Skye and around Loch Carron itself. On one memorable afternoon, after a morning of low cloud and peninsulas of Loch Torridon in brilliant sunshine

looking across the loch to Beinn Alligin and Liathach which were covered down to about 1000 feet with sparkling fresh snow. This year four of the group enjoyed kayaking on Lochs Carron and Maree. John Hay spent an afternoon diving for scallops and some of us collected mussels from Loch Torridon - all adding to our varied diet! We had two communal meals - roast venison provided and expertly cooked by John and a spread of salmon and seafood dishes and as usual more delicious cakes and puddings than are good for some of us!

Since Attadale is such a good centre for all sorts of activities we are planning to return there again next year and have booked the cottages for the week of

**11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013.**

**Kathleen Cartwright**

<p><b>Web site</b></p> <p>The web site has been completely revamped using open source (i.e. free) software and Fraser Sutherland has taken responsibility for its maintenance. We are sincerely grateful to Louise Scott for her generosity in continuing to fund the costs of the web site and to her and Ted Osuch for the not insignificant work involved in converting the</p>	<p>site from Dreamweaver to Wordpress.</p> <p>Remember to check our website. And if you are online and have a Facebook account, you will find the club at <a href="http://www.facebook.com/scottisharcticclub">www.facebook.com/scottisharcticclub</a></p> <p>And you can even 'follow' us on Twitter @ScotArcticClub – <a href="http://www.twitter.com/scotarcticclub">www.twitter.com/scotarcticclub</a>.</p>
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### SAC Expedition Awards

**We favour small independent expeditions being undertaken by people under 30 years of age with strong Scottish connections.**  
 Only expeditions to the Arctic will be considered.

This year we awarded grants to 7 people and one school:

- Kirsteen Allison, SAMS/UNIS, fieldwork costs for 2 courses at UNIS
- Lara Bentley, BSES Arctic Adventure, Finnmark, Norway
- Ashley Buchan, The University of Edinburgh, Honours dissertation on biodiversity, Qassiarsuk, Greenland
- Ryan McCafferty, BSES Arctic Adventure, Finnmark, Norway
- Rebecca McFarlane, BSES Arctic Adventure, Finnmark, Norway
- Eilidh McNab, BSES Arctic Adventure, Finnmark, Norway
- Paul Rhodes, SAMS/UNIS, fieldwork costs for courses at UNIS
- Fortrose Academy, 12 pupils and 2 staff going on exchange in October to Gjoahaven, Nunavut, Canada

Our 7 grantees for this year will now be in the Arctic on their various activities.

If you know of anyone contemplating an expedition for next year, please direct them to our web site: [www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk](http://www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk) for an application form for the Expedition fund, and for a list of previous awards.

### Donations are always welcome for the Expedition Fund.

Review: Special Report from The Economist Vol 403 Number 8789, June 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012

### The Vanishing North, What the Melting of the Arctic means for trade, energy and the environment. By James Astill

<p>This is a well investigated overview for which Mr Astill acknowledges many people for making '<i>generous intellectual and logistical contributions</i>'. The article begins with a 3 page introduction entitled The Melting North which sets the scene of receding summer ice that has already allowed both the Northern Sea Route and the North West Passage to be open for shipping. Explaining the albedo effect, it continues by indicating what the '<i>riches of the north</i>' are and how these might be won. There are some glib statements; Murmansk is described as 'Cheerless' and that increased plant growth 'would allow Greenlanders to grow more than the paltry 100 tonnes of potatoes they manage now', are two of</p>	<p>them.</p> <p>Perhaps the most important note made is that the Arctic is not regulated by an international treaty in the way the Antarctic is.</p> <p>The article is divided into 7 sections:</p> <p><b>The Science: Uncovering an ocean</b> basically gives an overview of ice and glacier melting throughout the Arctic, confirms it is speeding up and that the present monitoring is mainly from Ny Alesund.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity: Pity the copepod</b> discusses the effects on all the diversity of Arctic creatures really centring</p>
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<p>on fish and birds but no flora (except potatoes) are mentioned.</p> <p><b>Politics: Too much to fight over</b> says the planting of the Russian flag was rather more international than might be expected as an Australian, an American and a Swede were main players. It indicates that cooperation is understood as the main way forward.</p> <p><b>The Inuit: One man and his dogs</b> suggests the Inuit are rather better off than most indigenous peoples but could be under great pressure in places such as Nuuk if there is a large increase in immigrant workers to build new infrastructure such as an Aluminium smelter or London Mining's iron ore project.</p> <p><b>Shipping: Short and sharp</b> discusses the reduction in route mileage between Europe and the far East and the possible reduced revenues to Egypt from the Suez canal and knock on effect to Africa if more trade goes via the Arctic.</p> <p>It finishes with a single page on <b>Climate change</b>, called cold comfort, which asks the interesting</p>	<p>question 'Why does this matter'. The last paragraph reads' <i>With prompt action the worst outcomes can still be avoided ... But the Arctic will nonetheless be radically changed, to the detriment of a unique polar biome ...</i>' So it obviously does matter.</p> <p>I wish there had been short article on weather and day length, the Arctic ocean floor and just a touch more study of what the Arctic was like at different geological times rather than just hinting at an event or two. This article is worth reading by all who are interested in the Arctic especially as it has been published in a respected journal that has a huge readership around the world. Many will thus read it and think they know all about the Arctic having never been there, and it will all be ok, others may be tempted to study and think about the area much more, I'm sure we will meet both types.</p> <p><b>Chris Calver</b></p>
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<p><b>Advance notice: conference</b></p> <p>Arctic Summit - Sustainable Transformation: The way ahead March 2013 in Oslo (An Economist Conference)</p> <p>Arctic future - reconciling global, national and community interests The resource-rich Arctic is changing faster than anywhere on Earth, and its biggest transformation is just ahead. Due to climate change, the polar ice cap is shrinking and floating summer ice is projected to disappear altogether, setting alarm bells ringing for environmentalists, but opening up new perspectives for trade and development.</p> <p>At <i>The Economist's</i> Arctic Summit we will be discussing big issues concerning the region: chase for natural resources, impact of climate change, emergence of new trading routes and the need for responsible governance.</p> <p>The summit has been designed to focus attention and to promote constructive thinking prior to the next Arctic Council Ministers' meeting in 2013.</p> <p>A high-level group of 150 policy-makers, CEOs and influential commentators will spend a day tackling the issues at the heart of the Arctic's future, in discussions led by James Astill, environment editor of <i>The Economist</i> and author of the special report on the Arctic. <a href="http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/arctic-summit">http://cemea.economistconferences.com/event/arctic-summit</a></p>	<p><b>BSES Svalbard 2011 incident with polar bear - update</b></p> <p>On the 5th August 2011, a polar bear attacked a BSES camp on Von Postbreen, in Svalbard. Horatio Chapple, one of the young explorers was killed and 4 others, including the two leaders, were seriously injured. In March the report of the Governor of Svalbard concluded that there were no grounds for bringing criminal charges. The parents of Horatio Chapple appealed that decision and in June the Troms and Finnmark prosecutor's office concluded that there is no reason to overturn the Svalbard Governor's decision. This has now allowed the former High Court judge, Sir David Steel, chair of the independent inquiry to complete his report (6 July) and it will be published shortly.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bses.org.uk/Expeditions/SvalbardTragedy.aspx">www.bses.org.uk/Expeditions/SvalbardTragedy.aspx</a></p>
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### **Glasgow artist's East Greenland exhibition in Copenhagen**

Steve McQueen, a member of Kathleen Cartwright's party in East Greenland last summer, has an exhibition running until the end of August in The Greenlandic House, Loevstraede, Copenhagen. An article about the exhibition appeared in the online journal [greenlandtoday.com](http://greenlandtoday.com)

<http://greenlandtoday.com/gb/category/artist-steve-mcqueen-335/>

and his own web site is at:

<http://www.stevejohnmcqueen.blogspot.co.uk>



Warm sun, Rypefjord

Image reproduced by permission of the artist.

### **Tailpiece**

The next newsletter should be with you in early October.

Club's email address for all inquiries etc.: [sacsecretaryia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryia@gmail.com)