



## SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

### Newsletter – Summer 2015

*President: John Peden,  
Vice Presidents: Douglas Anderson and Anthony Walker  
Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Chris Calver,  
Committee members: Chris Bartle, Ashley Buchan, Jenny Newall,  
David Shaw 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.*

**Catalina on Loch Lomond: 7 July – see page 4**

**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering and Supper**

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015**

**The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William**

**Phone number 01397 702331.**

[salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com](mailto:salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com)

The Gathering and Supper will be held on Saturday 15 November, though members are also invited to an informal get-together on Friday evening. The hotel has reserved rooms for us for 45 people on the Friday night and 80 on the Saturday night. Please book early quoting Scottish Arctic Club

**Accommodation and Supper Costs for Hotel Residents:** The cost of Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for both Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November is £38 per person per night sharing a twin/double room. For bed and breakfast only on Friday night the price is £33 per person sharing a twin/double room. For singles there is an additional single supplement of £10 per person per night. Please note that the price for Saturday night includes the cost of the Supper for hotel residents.

**All this should be paid direct to the hotel by the individuals.**

**Supper Costs for those not staying in the Hotel:** If you are attending the Supper but not staying at the hotel, the price of the Supper will be £20 per person.

**A booking form will be circulated in October detailing all the options**

**The Gathering**, with talks and presentations, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2-5 pm, followed by the AGM. For this there will be a charge of £10 person, to include tea/coffee/biscuits, conference costs and the costs of our guests.

For alternative accommodation over the Supper weekend, see [www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk](http://www.visit-fortwilliam.co.uk)

Meantime **BOOK DATES** in your diaries and  
**RESERVE YOUR HOTEL ROOM.**

## 2015 SPRING MEET – Attadale

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015

After a glorious spell of weather in April hopes were high for a warm and balmy week at Attadale in May. But this was not to be. The weather turned cold and windy – in fact the coldest and windiest we have experienced so far. But the SAC Attadale group are nothing if not hardy souls. Undaunted, the kayakers kayaked, the walkers walked, the explorers explored and we ate and drank well and put the world to right each evening. Each year the number of kayakers in the group has increased and this year there were 9 with great plans, one of which was to kayak on Loch Coruisk on Skye. Unfortunately the wind thwarted this ambition and plans had to be changed. However excellent days kayaking were experienced including one on Loch Long with Eilean Donan Castle as a backdrop. For the walkers, amongst other locations there was the beautiful and varied Applecross peninsula to explore from the deserted beaches and headlands to the heights above Coire a' Chaorachain and further north a well-made pony track leading into the hills to the north of Beinn Eighe. Communal meals were enjoyed featuring salmon and venison and on our last evening we took a break from cooking and ate a delicious meal which included a calorie-filled celebration cake provided by the Danish lady who lives at the home farm. As usual the gardens were looking beautiful and the Macpherson family and their staff made us very welcome and even coped with two members who arrived a week early from Germany!



Photographs courtesy of Lewis Stevens

## Herbert Ponting: photographs of the Arctic

Frigga Kruse is a graduate of the University of Glasgow and has a PhD from the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. Her book "Frozen Assets: British mining, exploration and geopolitics on Spitsbergen, 1904 – 53" was reviewed in the newsletter a year ago. She is currently a post-doctoral researcher, still at Groningen, on polar historical archaeology. She writes: "We all know that Ponting went south and created the unique photographic record of Scott's expedition. But few people know Ponting also went to Spitsbergen with the Northern Exploration Company in 1918. He certainly took photographs there, recording the mining endeavour. But where are those photos? Perhaps one of your readers may know? There is a real chance that the photos are mixed into the Antarctic collection and no one has noticed."

If you have any ideas, please get in touch with the secretary

## The Walter Livingstone-Learmonth Kayak in Edinburgh

Walter Livingstone-Learmonth was born in Australia to Scottish parents and educated in Edinburgh. He enlisted on the whaling ship *Eclipse* (Captain David Gray, Peterhead) to the Greenland Sea in 1888 and on the *Maud* (Captain William Adams, Dundee) to Baffin Bay in 1889, for sport! He wrote copious Journals, and took many photographs, which are in the **Natural History Museum**, London, the **Library and Archives Canada**, Ottawa and in museums and archives round the UK. He also collected many Inuit artefacts from Greenland and Baffin Island. He bought a Greenlandic kayak and a full set of hunting gear from a local hunter, Martin Daniel (see photograph), in the village of Noursauk (now Nûgssuaq, north of Disko Island, 70° 40'N, 54° 30'E) for two sovereigns! He gave this to the **National Museum of Scotland**, Edinburgh in 1894 (accession number 1894-227). It is still there and several of us were very fortunate to see this recently (thanks to the Curator, Ross Irving, for permission to visit and photograph) in the National Museums Collection Centre, Granton, along with a fine set of artefacts and clothing. Harvey Golden, who surveyed it in 2002, was very helpful.

**Mike Lea**



Readers may wish to note the journal Qajaq (See <http://www.qajaqusa.org/Journal/Journal.html>.) edited by Vernon Doucette with whom Mike Lea was in correspondence about this canoe and also the ones that the St Andrews Professor of Geology, Harald Drever, brought back. If you have any information about such Greenlandic kayaks in private hands, please get in touch with Mike or the secretary.

And for more on kayaks see <https://kayakgreenland1959.wordpress.com>



### **Life Below Zero**

Susan Aikens, the Club's reality TV star, is featured in the 5<sup>th</sup> series of this American TV show currently being screened on the National Geographic Channel



### **From the Archives**

#### **From 25 years ago ...**

At the Annual Supper in Blair Atholl, 9 people showed a total of 89 slides as follows: George Downie on the Yukon, Kathleen Cartwright on Ellesmere island, Will Higgs on Lancaster Sound and dog sledging at Angmagssalik, Donald Mearns on Baffin Island, Hugh Lang on Sondre Stromfjord & Kuhn Island, David Mordaunt on Greenland, Chris Calver and Sue Fenton both on Svalbard.

#### **From 40 years ago ...**

Forty six members and guests attended the Annual Supper in 1975 but the secretary has yet to discover the venue.

### **Expedition Fund**

The committee is currently in the midst of the process of trying to get the Expedition Fund registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Like all legal processes, progress is slow but we are making progress.

### **Rob Caskie lecture – The Franklin Expedition**

In the newsletter a year ago we noted new research about the Franklin Expedition and in early June, John McGregor, immediate Past President of the Arctic Club sponsored a lecture by Rob Caskie, a noted South African storyteller. Having honed his skills on the Anglo-Zulu wars, he has more recently turned his attention to the polar regions and the history of their exploration. A number of Club members were present for his very engaging talk about Franklin and other notable characters of polar exploration including Rae, though if memory serves me correctly, no mention was made of William Speirs Bruce.

### **Workshop College East Greenland Catalina Expedition**



Former Club member, Neal Gwynne, is the expedition leader on this four-week expedition to the Stauning Alps in East Greenland. They fly from Scotland to Greenland in a WWII Catalina flying boat. The expedition departs from Loch Lomond on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Neal has forwarded these times:

Timescales for departure on 7th July are:

08h00 Depart Prestwick Airport.

08h40 Arrive Loch Lomond followed by a few water take-offs and landings.

09h00 Arrive on mooring buoy at Cruise Loch Lomond, Tarbet. Pick up students and luggage.

09h45 Leave mooring buoy.

10h00 Departure.

Details at: <http://www.arcticclub.org.uk/expeditions/2015/catalina-to-greenland/>

### **Grants awarded**

The Committee had a more difficult task than usual in determining who should receive funding for this years expeditions. We also had more applications than ever before at 20. Two applicants were refused grants. The grants awarded are:

Sam Black and Felix Butschek, students at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Dunstaffnage currently on exchange in Longyearbyen. £100 each for independent expeditions west of Longyearbyen.

Susannah Bolton, £100 for an artist's residency in Lofoten

Matthew Burke, £100 for an Arctic leadership course in Svalbard with British Exploring Society.

Susannah Challenger, £200 for a Polar skills course in Svalbard with Northern Exposure.

Jacob Cook, £400 for a climbing expedition to Baffin Island – now postponed to 2016

Joseph Cook of University of Derby, £200 for continuing scientific research in SW Greenland.

Clara Flintrop, £150 for an independent skiing expedition in Svalbard.

Joshua Key, £100 for an Arctic leadership course in Svalbard with British Exploring Society.

John Lindle, £350 for an independent scientific research expedition to SW Greenland.

Patricia McCormack of Edinburgh College of Art, £250 for an independent scientific research expedition to Finnmark, Norway.

Nora Miellke of the University of Aberdeen, £200 for independent scientific research expedition to Svalbard.

Ben Monypenny, £200 for a sailing and climbing expedition to Lofoten.

Benno Rawlinson, £200 for a three-man expedition to the NW Passage. See

<http://www.alexhibbert.com/>

Ian Stevens of Aberystwyth University, £200 for an independent scientific research expedition to Svalbard

Emily Turner of the University of Edinburgh, £150 for a solo canoe expedition and scientific research in Yukon, Canada

### **Polar Medal**

In the London Gazette of 9 January 2015, and just too late for the previous newsletter, there appeared this announcement:

#### **Polar Medal**

Arctic to 2002

Dr Iain Hugh Murray Smart, MB ChB

Arctic scientist, Expedition Leader, Mountaineer and Ambassador

and in the same announcement there was also:

Arctic and Antarctic to 2012

Professor Geoffrey Stuart Boulton, OBE, BSc, PhD, FRS, FRSE

Polar scholar in Glaciology, Glacial Geology & Geomorphology, Glaciomarine Systems and Quaternary Glacial History

Geoffrey is a former member of the Club.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to Iain, one of the founders of the Club.

The announcement is at:

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/61108/supplement/158>

### **Archives**

The Secretary has started weeding the paper archives of irrelevant material. An initial sift was aided by Elspeth Hamilton. This is being done with a view to submitting the important historical information such as the Minutes of the AGMs and the committee meetings to the safekeeping of the University of Dundee's Archive Service.

### **Newsletter**

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter so it requires YOUR articles to make it interesting and informative to members. Yes, it also serves to allow the Committee to keep you informed of events and administrative matters but that is not its primary purpose.

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

Please remember that the Club is active on both Facebook and Twitter