



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

Newsletter - January 2017

*President: Douglas Anderson,
Vice Presidents: Stella Spratley and John Thorogood
Secretary: Ashley Buchan, Treasurer: Chris Calver,
Committee members: Matthew Burke, Chris Gilmore, Elspeth Hamilton,
Cameron Mackay, Susie Ranford*

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.

Date for your diary

46th Annual Gathering and Supper

Saturday 18th November 2017

The Carrbridge Hotel, Carrbridge

Phone number 01479 841202.

enquiries@carrbridgehotel.com



Overlooking Kinlochleven on the Sunday morning walk. Photo by Conrad Hughes.

The 2016 Gathering & Supper

The 2016 Annual Gathering and Supper was held on Saturday 19th November 2016. Another successful Gathering was enjoyed by approximately 61 members and guests present to hear a variety of presentations. The President, John Peden, welcomed everyone and after a brief introduction to the Gathering handed over to Chris Gilmore to act as MC for the afternoon keeping all the speakers to their allotted time for the presentations. We started with summaries from those who had received grants from the Club for expeditions, including Donald MacRae who gave a summary of Fortrose Academy's expedition to East Greenland in 2013. This was followed by a presentation containing some spectacular images of Dove Bay, NE Greenland, given by Brigitte and Peter Grosmann. Regrettably, owing to a technical problem, Elspeth Hamilton was unable to present her much-anticipated film taken in Qaanaaq, 2016, though we are grateful nonetheless. After the coffee break, the main talk of the afternoon was by Rev. Bob Shepton to whom we are indebted for sharing his very entertaining and well-received film, 'The Wild Bunch: Belgian climbers'. Chris Gilmore once again provided all the technical equipment for projection of images and amplification of voice as well as running the afternoon's programme.

The talks were:

Donald MacRae: Fortrose Academy expedition to Ammassilik Island, East Greenland 2013

Nora Mielke: Moss, soil and carbon storage – Ny Ålesund, Svalbard 2015

Paul Quast: Chasing the Pole Star - Finnmark 2015

Benno Rawlinson: North-west Passage 2015

Brigitte & Peter Grosmann: Dove Bay, NE Greenland 2006

Rev. Bob Shepton: The Wild Bunch: Belgian climbers

Mairi Fenton: Arctic Eider Project (Canada).

Mike Lea: Cruise on the River Lena (Sakha Republic, Russian Federation).

Ballooning in the Arctic: 5 minute film introduced by Chris Calver

Louise Hollinrake: A story from Svalbard in 1630

John Thorogood: Flying in support of the Worksop College Catalina Expedition to East Greenland

All speakers kept to time, however the length of the presentation given by the keynote speaker (50 mins) meant that the AGM began at the later time of 5.45 pm, as opposed to the more usual time of 5pm. The minutes of the AGM are included with this newsletter. Those due to stand down at this AGM were John Peden, President, Douglas Anderson, Vice President, Iain Allison, Secretary, Chris Calver, Treasurer, and Jenny Newall. The President thanked them for their service to the club over the past three years. The treasurer may be re-elected and is willing to stand. The President asked for nominations from the floor with no response. Nominations from the committee are: Douglas Anderson as President, Ashley Buchan as Secretary, Stella Spratley as Vice President and Elspeth Hamilton as an ordinary committee member. All four were duly elected. Details of the rest of the AGM will appear in the minutes.

Displays at the Gathering

Jane Rushton is an artist based in Mallaig who draws her inspiration partly from the Arctic landscapes of Spitsbergen where she collaborated with scientist Crispin Halsall who works on recording pollution levels on Arctic ice. Together they developed the exhibition "Arctic Dialogues" and Jane had on display some of her art work inspired by her time there. For further information, see www.janerushton.co.uk.

The Supper

Eighty-five members and guests sat down to the annual Supper at 7.30. Once again the Ben Nevis Hotel provided an excellent meal and afterwards members took their coffee through to the ballroom for the auction and raffle and then lingered chatting to friends for the rest of the evening.

The Auction and Raffle

The Club's Treasurer, Chris Calver did a splendid job as auctioneer to encourage bidders to dig deep into their pockets. Bryan Alexander presented a fine example of an ulu, an Inuit knife, which, after a period of fierce bidding was won by Averil Stewart. Siggí Aðalsteinsson presented a Sirius Patrol presentation case with bottle and shot glass and lined with seal skin. Iain Roy presented two of his atmospheric photographs from the North-West highlands. Elizabeth and John Hay donated two bottles of whisky for their 'Guess the Malt' raffle. Once again the Expedition Fund will benefit from close to £1000.

Sunday morning walk

We are once again very grateful to Liz Patterson for finding and leading an interesting walk for the few members who take advantage of this opportunity. It was another stunning day as the group left the hotel at 10 am for Kinlochleven, advancing in snowy conditions up to Loch Eilde Mòr and encountering an uphill mountain bike race en route! Photograph above.

SAC Members recent expedition activities

In both 2014 and 2015, Jim and Sandra Gregson were on expedition trips to the northern part of Liverpool Land, NE Greenland, where with other friends they made a good number of first ascents of some of the striking peaks characteristic of that area (see attached photographs). In 2015 a big polar bear made a close pass by our base camp. Members who might be interested in fuller reports plus a greater selection of photographs are directed to consult the Alpine Journals for 2014 and 2016 which both carry full articles, as well as the American Alpine Journals for 2015 and 2016 which also contain reports. For more information on the latter, plus more pictures, visit the online version of AAJ at <http://publications.americanalpineclub.org> and search under "East Greenland" or "North Liverpool Land".

Polar Medal

We are delighted to extend our congratulation to Myrtle Simpson who has been awarded this year with the Polar Medal in recognition of her achievements as a polar explorer, sea canoer, explorer and writer. The Arctic Club has posted on their website a brief biography of Myrtle which you can find here: <http://www.arcticclub.org.uk/events/polar-medals/myrtle-simpson/>. See also the BBC News website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-38730043>

Iain Smart

Many of you will now be aware of the passing of Iain Smart in December 2016. Iain was one of the founding members of the club and its first President. Up until recent years he seldom missed the Annual Supper, and was on good form at the Summer Solstice meeting at Myrtle and Hugh Simpson's in June last year. Iain Smart's funeral was held on Friday 6th January at 3pm in Perth.

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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Please remember that the Club is active on both Facebook and Twitter and the Club has had its first member citing Facebook as the place where she found out about the Club