

	<p><b>SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB</b>  <i>To Encourage Adventurous Endeavour and Interest in the Science, Culture and Protection of the Arctic</i></p> <p><b>Newsletter October 2021</b></p> <p><i>President: Stella Spratley</i>  <i>Vice Presidents: Susie Ranford, Noel Williams</i>  <i>Secretary: Iain Allison, Treasurer: Chris Calver,</i>  <i>Committee members: David Broadhead, Chris Gilmore, Hans-Peter Grossmann, Elspeth Hamilton, David Stone, Aythya Young</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk">www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk</a></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
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### From the Editor

This is the last Newsletter before the Gathering; I am really looking forward to meeting you all again, so please fill in your forms, phone the hotel, cross your fingers and get organised. The Newsletter is getting shorter, and I take this as a good sign: we are looking more forwards than backwards now. I almost salivate at the thought of being in the Arctic once again. Enjoy the Newsletter and I'll see you in the bar at Fort William.

### ... and from the President

Hello all. Hope this newsletter finds everyone fit and well after a very strange year or so. It looks like we will finally be able to continue with our 50th anniversary celebrations, following the production of impressive journal. (Thanks to all involved with that.) Our twice postponed trip to East Greenland is now scheduled for summer 2022, and this year's Gathering will be a celebration of our 50 years, with club members speaking about their adventures across the decades. Hope to see many of you there.

### 50th Annual Gathering and Supper

Our annual meeting is fast approaching. It will be held on Saturday 20th November 2021 at The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William. If you plan to attend the Gathering and have not yet booked with the hotel, please do so as soon as possible. Rooms have been reserved for Club members for the Friday (19<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday nights Their phone number is 01397 702331 and the e-mail is salesbennevis@strathmorehotels.com. The rate for dinner, bed and breakfast is £48, with a £18 single supplement, and for those who are not staying in the hotel but wish to attend the Supper the cost is £22. If you are in full time education the Club will subsidise your hotel room by 50% so you will pay just £24. The cost for attending the Gathering remains at £10 in order to cover the costs of hiring the room, audio-visual equipment and afternoon teas/coffees.

Please also complete the attached booking form.

The programme for this special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gathering is currently being finalised and once again we will have a wide-ranging and interesting selection of talks.



## 2021/2022 Subscriptions

The annual subscription of the Club became due on 1<sup>st</sup> September and remains at £5. We encourage members to pay by standing order, although a cheque (payable to Scottish Arctic Club) sent to the secretary, cash at the Gathering or a bank transfer (initial and surname as reference) are also acceptable

The Club's bank account details are:

Bank of Scotland

Sort code: 80-06-18

Account number 00835858

BIC: BOFSGB21364

IBAN: GB58 BOFS 8006 1800 8358 58

If you are not attending the Gathering and Supper, please complete the attached form and send a cheque, payable to Scottish Arctic Club, to the Secretary or transfer the £5 using internet banking.

If you wish to add a donation to the Expedition Fund please complete the other attached form and transfer the amount by internet banking to the Clydesdale Bank, sort code: 82-67-04 account number 20109358 and again use your initial and surname as reference. If you wish to pay by cheque, payable to Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund, please send a separate cheque to the Secretary. For your convenience if paying by cheque, both cheques may be sent to the secretary. Donations made in this way are eligible for Gift Aid, cash donations at the Gathering are not.

The SAC Secretary can be contacted as follows:

Iain Allison

Secretary

Secretary's address: 1/2 13 Crosbie Street, Glasgow G20 0BQ

Phone: 0141 946 1525

email: [sacsecretaryia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryia@gmail.com)



NAME(S): (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SAC Membership Subscription</b>	
Membership subscriptions for 2021/2022 @ £5/person	£
I enclose a cheque I have set up a standing order / I have paid by bank transfer / I will pay at Gathering	
circle as appropriate	

### **Data Protection Act**

One of the aims of the Club is to provide a network of like-minded people who can exchange information and support each other. This means opportunity is needed to contact individual members - and not all can attend the Annual Gathering and Supper or other meetings. We circulate the membership list once a year and this falls within the new GDPR rules. By continuing your membership, it is assumed that you consent to having your details included in this list.

The list will only be used within the SAC; it is to facilitate communications between members and is NOT for commercial purposes. Should there be an outside inquiry and we were aware of a member or members who could help, we would contact the member first and NOT pass on personal details.

If your details in the membership list, which was distributed in June this year, are correct you need do nothing more otherwise please amend below:

Please write legibly

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If your 'Specific Arctic Interests' require to be updated, please add brief details.

It will be assumed that those renewing their subscriptions are agreeing for inclusion by default thereby fulfilling the intention to share relevant information.

**SCOTTISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION FUND**  
**2021 Donation Form**

NAME: (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

The **Scottish Arctic Club** has an **Expedition Fund** which is a registered charity (SC046857) now entering its 6<sup>th</sup> year. The fund makes financial awards to encourage young people to explore the Arctic. It is maintained through donations by Club members. The size and number of awards made in any year is determined by the relevance of the application and the funds currently held. In recent years awards have ranged from £200 to £1000. A list of recent awards may be seen on the club's website:

<http://www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk/wp/expedition-grants/past-grants/>

People awarded grants are invited to make a presentation at the Annual gathering about their adventure.

We encourage members to make a donation to the Expedition Fund. Donations are payable to **Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund**

I enclose a cheque                      I have set up a standing order  
I have paid by bank transfer      I will pay at Gathering  
(Circle as appropriate)

The Expedition Fund's bank account details are:

Clydesdale Bank

Sort code: 82-67-04

Account number 20109358

IBAN: GB15CLYD82670420109358

BIC: CLYDGB21704

<i>giftaid it</i>	Boost your donation by 25 p for every £1 you donate Yes, I want to Gift Aid this and any donations I make in the future. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax or Capital Gains tax, or both, than the amount of Gift Aid claimed in a tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.
	Name _____
	First line of address _____
	Postcode _____                                      Date _____

**Please return form by post or email to:**  
Sue Fenton,  
Polldoran, Clachan Seil, Oban PA34 4TJ    Tel 01852 300545,  
email: [scottisharcticexpeditionfund@gmail.com](mailto:scottisharcticexpeditionfund@gmail.com)  
Form may be completed and returned electronically if payment is made by bank transfer

## **The Club's Greenland Maps**

Photographs of parts of the various Greenland maps have been photographed and are now available for your perusal using the link below. The title of each image is either **Year Place**, for example, 1975 Edinburgh or **Latitude-Longitude**, for example, 74-19 Clavering Island. General areas have been added and some surnames on that particular piece of the map. If you have any problems accessing the maps, contact the secretary.

<https://drive.google.com/>

or copy and paste this link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m4or9EbbHuxiY5bFteqEyk\\_tCgx969vy?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m4or9EbbHuxiY5bFteqEyk_tCgx969vy?usp=sharing)

## **The Arctic Club**

For our many members who are also members of the Arctic Club we note that the Arctic Club is again holding its annual dinner in Scotland, in the New Club, Princes Street, Edinburgh on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Welcome to the following new members**

Mark Evans

Thomas Litchfield

Eve MacCallum

Hannah Mortlock

Remco Schellingerhout

Simon Tietjen

Amanda Vestergaard

## From Douglas Peacock: Sticky ice

This is a memory of a man packing expedition crossing the 25 mile wide Storstrøm glacier from Dronning Louise Land to Seal Lake in Germania Land, NE Greenland in late September 1952. By this time, we had built the pre-fab Canadian hut that was to be our home for the next year or two. The objective was to support a group walking to Danmarkshavn to pick up the 'Weasel' tractors from the NE Greenland coast for the Spring scientific work. Our task was to carry the group's winter clothing and anything else required, in addition to our own loads of two two-man tents for six men as well as Primus stoves, food, and sleeping bags. At that time the glacier near Dronning Louise Land was seamed by deep, newly empty meltwater channels which were difficult to cross: indeed, we only managed to cover some 200 metres in the first day. Things improved thereafter when we crossed on to the more 'normal' glacier surface of low ice hummocks on which we were able to walk at a reasonable speed using crampons.

While walking, and again when putting up the tents, I noticed that my ice axe stuck more in the frozen rills between the hummocks than in the hummocks themselves, where the ice merely shattered. The 'stickiness' I can only assume was due to supercooled water trapped as the rills suddenly froze over. Certainly, there was a marked drop in temperature while we had our week on the glacier, and before we returned to Base. Has anyone else had the same experience? Perhaps it is all already written up somewhere in the literature.

## From Susie Ranford

### Polar Art Exhibit in Glasgow

Artist and sculptor Wayne Binitie's immersive science-art exhibition, Polar Zero, opens at the Glasgow Science Centre in September. The centrepiece is an original glass sculpture containing air from the year 1765. Extracted from an Antarctic ice core and preserved forever within the sculpture, this air connects us with a pivotal moment in the Earth's history, the dawn of the industrial revolution. It is a technically challenging piece that is achieved in collaboration with British Antarctic Survey's ice core labs, and Arup's advanced engineering capability. The entire creation process will be captured on video and be accessible online. <https://www.bas.ac.uk/media-post/polar-zero-visual-arts-take-centre-stage-at-cop26/>

### Polar Juniors

Craig Mathieson, founder of The Polar Academy has recently launched Polar Juniors. The new "Polar Academy Juniors" applies all of the same approaches as the Polar Academy to a younger age range. The programme is designed to help children who are moving from Primary to High School. Follow them on Twitter @PolarJuniors

### Climate Change News

The IPCC's latest report is described as a 'code red for humanity'. Among other impacts, the Arctic is predicted to be practically ice-free in September at least once before 2050 in all modelled scenarios. For more on key trends and impacts in the Arctic, check out the latest Climate Change Update report from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme. <https://www.amap.no/documents/doc/arctic-climate-change-update-2021-key-trends-and-impacts.-summary-for-policy-makers/3508>

2021's sea ice minimum is thought to be the 12th lowest since records began. Zachary Labe, a postdoc at Colorado State University, plots sea ice extent online. <https://sites.uci.edu/zlabe/arctic-sea-ice-extentconcentration/> Follow him on Twitter @ZLabe for more plots and insights.

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) will be held in Glasgow 31st October to 12th November. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

If you are feeling creative, *Say it with Science* are seeking climate change art from all age groups.

(<https://www.sayitwithscience.org/get-involved>)

Meanwhile, rapid cost reductions in renewables are cause for hope. Modelling by a team at the University of Oxford shows that 'if solar photovoltaics, wind, batteries and hydrogen electrolyzers continue to follow their current exponentially increasing deployment trends for another decade, we achieve a near-net-zero emissions energy system within twenty-five years.' The log scale plot on p2 of the paper hammers home the rapid cost reductions, especially in solar.

See: [https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/files/energy\\_transition\\_paper-INET-working-paper.pdf](https://www.inet.ox.ac.uk/files/energy_transition_paper-INET-working-paper.pdf)

### From Doug Anderson

In late August I was on passage from Arisaig to Dunstaffnage via Coll in my sturdy sail vessel Timmiaq (Inuktitut speakers in the club will recognise the name immediately as referencing the Little Auk!?). The tides not being quite right for the Sound Of Iona I was passing west of The isle. It was a blissfully calm and sunny afternoon the only blot on the seascape the recently launched ten deck cruise ship Iona sandwiching me as it passed to Starboard. My phone pinged. There was an important message from my friend Oli. He was also at sea fishing somewhere west of Rockall aboard his mega-boat Polar Amaroq and was sending news that permission had at last been given for direct flights into Kulusuk from Iceland. No quarantine required for those double vaccinated, double tested, double registered etc etc.

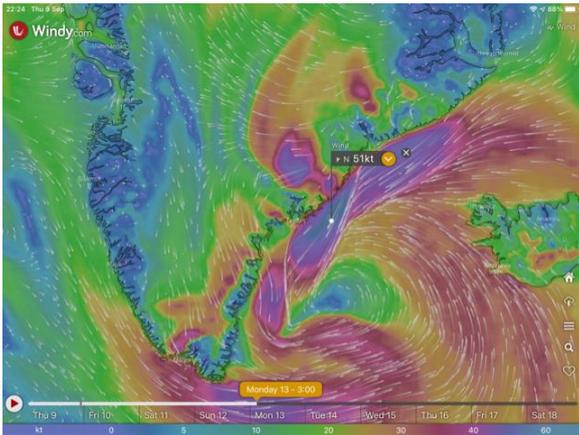
I have to say my long summer of voyaging around the western isles had been fantastic and in amazing weather of Greenland quality. Greenland meanwhile having experienced a very wet time with very much rain. Still when opportunity knocks etc. It is necessary.....etc. I was in touch with our fellow member and captain of the Polar Academy Craig Mathieson and we agreed to head north in company. This was a piece of good luck because his assistant did all the research into the process and in particular the fact that U.K. Covid tests were not valid for Greenland and retesting would be needed after arriving in Iceland. To add stress to a complicated process the Icelandic test would only be valid for 48hrs and could take up to 36hrs to come through. The consequences of this being that a 3night stay over in Reykjavik would be needed. We would Covid test in Scotland (£80) on Friday the 3rd for access to Iceland. Fly there on Sunday 5th. Test again on the Monday (£50) for access to Greenland and (cross fingers) fly across on Wednesday 8th weather permitting of course. Any weather or (stupid) documentation issues along the way and the whole plan would quickly unravel and likely we would get into an endless Covid testing cycle. All went well however until we reached final checking for Kulusuk when I proudly presented my documentation packs in crisp plastic envelopes, 1 pack for Andrea, 1 pack for me. Ticket for flight ✓, ticket for helicopter ✓ passport ✓ Vaccination certs ✓, Valid Covid test Cert ✓, Greenland registration doc?...inquired the checking man!?!.....Oops (not the actual expression I used) 😬. Being neurotic by nature I always arrive plenty early so although the next 45 minutes were fraught and my blood pressure was off scale we did get through it. As a totally dysfunctional form filler and dyslexic this was terrible for me. The Greenland registration form is quite long and complicated and in places quite ambiguous. At the end of it all the internet link would not "send" but thanks to Craig we got it sorted and passed into departure area with the last of the passengers.

The stress of this quite supplanted my worries about the fact we had secreted a fair quantity of Gin and Wine in our checked bags because we had discovered that owing to a 2wk prohibition\* there would be no alcohol for sale in Tasiilaq. Buying wine boxes from the state liquor stores in Reykjavik is a pricey business @ £50/box.

Storm coming!

\*As often happens here in East Greenland there are some real underlying problems and the prohibition was forced because of an upsurge in drink related violence in the town 2 rapes, 2 suicides of young people, and one murder! "

(See also <https://www.euronews.com/2021/09/09/this-greenland-town-has-banned-alcohol-after-several-spooky-incidents>)



*Storm coming*



*New winter cover for “Rana”; note the ground tie-downs.*



*Aurora. (Picture by Lars Anker)*



*Rana in her winter quarters spring 2019 having the previous winter survived a gust of 182mph in Nov 2018*

Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund (SAEF)

SCO46857

Treasurer's Report: 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021

Balance at bank 01/09/2020	£ 8,853.83
Balance at bank 31/08/2021	£15,174.27

**Income**

Gift aid	£ 533.76
Donations, auctions and <i>in memorium</i>	£3,763.00
Amazon Smile Europe Care	£ 23.68
Bequest	£5,000.00
TOTAL	£9,320.44

**Expenditure**

Expedition grants awarded (All deferred until 2022)

Stepahnie Carol (SAC Greenland)	£ 500.00
Lucy Hart (SAC Greenland)	£ 500.00
Frazer Melville (SAC Greenland)	£ 500.00
Mark Agnew (Northwest Passage Row)	£1,500.00
TOTAL	£3,000.00

**Balance** **£6,320.44**

SCW/Fenton, Treasurer SAEF  
3 November 2021

**Note:**

Clydesdale/ Virgin Money have, in their wisdom, decided to close their Oban branch. May I please ask any potential donors to the fund to kindly not send cheques in future, but to use the fund's BACS details.

Club email address - [sacsecretaryia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryia@gmail.com)  
Web site: [www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk](http://www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk)  
Club's official postal address: c/o Royal Scottish Geographical Society,  
Lord John Murray House, 15-19 North Port, Perth PH1 5LU