



SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

*To Encourage Adventurous Endeavour and Interest in
the Science, Culture and Protection of the Arctic*



NEWSLETTER January 2024

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Illustrated with pictures from Svalbard by James Fenton

Advance Notices

14th SPRING MEET

20-27 April 2023

Attadale

Contact Kathleen Cartwright if interested

SUMMER SOLSTICE MEET

22-23 June

Farleiter, Kincaig

Invite from Myrtle Simpson

ANNUAL GATHERING & SUPPER

Saturday 2 November 2024

Nethy Bridge Hotel

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Articles sought: members' expedition reports old &
new, items of Arctic interest, etc.

Deadline 31 March 2024

President: Noel Williams Vice President: Anthony Walker

Secretary: Jinty Smart Treasurer: Mandy Peden

Membership Secretary: Jane Craxton Gathering Secretary: Bethany Carol

Other Committee Members: Mike Bauermeister, Louise Hollinrake, Hannah Mortlock, Tuppence Mellish (co-opted)

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 website for an application form.

Contacts:

Club Secretary: jintysmart@bopenworld.com

www.scottisharcticclub.org.uk

Newsletter editor: We are always on the lookout for articles: please send them to james@fenton.scot



**THE 2023 ANNUAL GATHERING AND SUPPER
BEN NEVIS HOTEL, FORT WILLIAM
SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

It was a momentous event at our last AGM when two long serving office bearers of the club stepped down. Iain Allison retired from the role of Secretary, a position he had held since 2010 (with only a short respite when Ashley Buchan took over), and at the same time Chris Calver stood down as Treasurer, a position he had held for ten years. It was decided that some of the burden should be taken off the Secretary to help make the role slightly less onerous.

Jane Craxton volunteered to take on the new role of Membership Secretary, while the new role of Gathering Secretary was also suggested and was soon filled by Bethany Carol. James Fenton offered to become Newsletter Editor. This still left the roles of Treasurer and Secretary vacant. Very fortunately these two posts were filled soon afterwards with Mandy Pedan offering to become Treasurer and at an informal committee meeting (held by Zoom in early January) Jinty Smart, who was already on the committee, offered to become Secretary. Four other members make up the remainder of the Committee – Mike Bauermeister, Louise Hollinrake, Fraser Melville and Jennifer Newall.

Kathleen Cartwright again organised the Spring Meet at Attadale in May and Myrtle Simpson organised a barbecue at her place for the Summer Solstice gathering on 24–25 June.

James Fenton has pulled together three fine newsletters over the last year with some lengthy articles. Among these, Susie Ranford wrote-up the children's 50th Anniversary Expedition which took place last summer. This was a hugely successful trek with four young children – Simon, Astrid, Eric and Nina – across Ammassalik Island from Pupik in the north to the town of Tasiilaq in the south-east. Susie also kept us up to

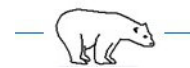
date with some of the effects of climate change, while Dave King highlighted the worrying amount of plastic in the Arctic. He described how, despite the setback of Covid, he is trying to tackle this widespread problem. Jane Craxton introduced us to John Rae, the famous Orcadian explorer who travelled astonishing distances in Arctic Canada in the nineteenth century. Our guest speaker at this year's gathering will be telling us more about this remarkable man. Thanks to all the other contributors to our newsletter.

Grants were awarded by SAEF to a number of groups and we look forward to hearing of their adventures at this year's Gathering.

A writing competition for members on the subject of 'The Arctic and Me!' was run this autumn with submissions required by the end of September. The winner of this new initiative will be announced at the Gathering.

Many thanks to all our office bearers and committee members for all their efforts over the past year.

Noel Williams



DRAFT MINUTES OF 2023 MEETING

Held on Saturday 18th November 2022 at 5 pm with Noel Williams, President, in the chair and around 50 members present.

Apologies for absence were received from: Chris Calver, Anthony Walker, James and Sandra Gregson, Duncan Currie, Peter and Sarah Mackay, Myrtle Simpson, Simon Fraser, John Peden, James Fenton, Norman Smith

The president began by welcoming members to this AGM and was pleased to see so many.

Minutes of the AGM of 5th November 2022

These, previously circulated, were approved.



Matters arising

There were no matters arising not already on this year's agenda.

The President's Annual Report

[See full report above]

The President began his report by acknowledging all the hard work put in by Iain Allison, the previous secretary, and Chris Calver, the previous Treasurer, both who had put in many years of hard work on behalf of the Club and both who stood down last year. The Secretary's role was now divided into three separate roles, with Jane Craxton taking up the membership post, Bethany Carol the Gathering role and Jinty Smart, the Secretary. James Fenton is the Newsletter Editor and Mandy Peden the new Treasurer with Mike Bauermeister, Louise Hollinrake, Fraser Melville and Jennifer Newall volunteering to be ordinary members of the Committee.

He noted that both the spring meeting at Attadale, organised by Kathleen Cartwright, and the Solstice Meeting on Speyside, held by Myrtle Simpson, went ahead.

James Fenton had published three excellent newsletters over the last year, full of informative and colourful articles.

SAEF grants were awarded to several groups of young people and a writing competition had been organised, with the title of The Arctic and Me, the winner of which had been announced earlier that day. He was delighted it was Ellis O'Connor, an SAEF recipient from last year who was at this year's Gathering giving us a presentation of her Arctic project. She was able to receive her prize of Hans Egbert's book in person. He congratulated her.

He finished by thanking office bearers and committee members for their hard work over the last year.

Membership Report

The Membership secretary started by noting her thanks to Iain Allison for all the supportive help he had given over the last year as she settled into her new role and was delighted to start putting faces to names as she met members at the Gathering.

She reported that numbers are similar to last year, at 179 but noted the passing of two previous Club presidents over the last 12 months. There were 8 new members who had joined the club.

She finished by thanking all members who had promptly paid their membership fees and encouraged members to set up payment by standing order.

Her full report is appended below.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the SAC income was £5,366 while the expenditure was £6,637 leaving a deficit of £372. This slight deficit is appearing each year which is decreasing the SAC capital and with increased costs will probably get bigger. After discussion at the Committee it was agreed to put the membership up to £10 a year. The membership fee has been £5 a year for as long as anyone on the Committee could remember and this slight increase would solve the reduction in the capital.

The Committee recommended to the membership that this proposal was approved. A member raised the question of what do club members actually get for their membership fee? The cost of the Gathering exceeds the £10 donation, would it not be more fair if the Gathering fee was increased and the membership left at £5? It was put to the vote and the majority of members approved the raising of the membership fee to £10.

It was also noted that £1,496.25 had been donated to the SAEF. The treasurers accounts are appended below.



Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund (SAEF)

This was the first year that the generous fund from The Myrtle and Hugh Simpson Award was allocated. This award is for self-organised and self-supported expeditions to the Arctic and the three young people who were given the full award this year fulfilled this criteria admirably as they spent a month climbing in the Angmassilik area.

Two other awards from the SAEF were given to Claire (Tuppence) Mellish and Louise Mercer. All three groups plus Ellis O'Connor (a recipient from last year) delivered informative and colourful presentations of their adventures.

The fund stands at a healthy £13,000 and the SAEF thanks club members for their strong support and generous donations. Thanks were given to Kathleen Cartwright for all her work as Chairperson over the last years and Bryan Alexander was thanked for taking her place.

The accounts are included here on page 6.

The writing competition, titled the *Arctic and Me*, had five strong entries, four of them from SAEF recipients. The winner, Ellis O'Connor, was presented with the extremely valuable first edition of Hans Egede's 18th Century book on Greenland. She was delighted.

Election of new SAC Committee members

Fraser Melville and Jenny Newall had come to the end of their three year stint as ordinary committee members. They were thanked for all their hard work and request were made for volunteers to take up the vacancies. Hannah Mortlock put her name forward which was warmly accepted.

Spring Meet

This year, the thirteenth Spring Meet to Attadale, had twenty-three members taking part and among many of

the events on offer were two very enjoyable canape and cocktail evenings held outside the cottages.

The Fourteenth meet will take place next year 20– 27 April 2024. If interested in joining contact Kathleen Cartwright.

The President thanked Kathleen for continuing to organise these Spring Meets.

Summer Solstice Meet

The Summer Solstice Meet occurred once again in late June and the President thanked Myrtle Simpson for hosting the weekend for the usual canoeing activities, river swimming, barbecue and marshmallows toasted round the log fire. There was a good turn out of club members with the age range from 5 years old to late 80s. Myrtle is again looking forward to hosting the Solstice Meet in 2024 at Farleiter on 22/23 June. This weekend offers opportunities for walking, canoeing and swimming as well as excellent gastronomy.

Annual Gathering and Supper 2024

The Nethy Bridge Hotel has been booked for 2024. The Gathering will be on Saturday 2nd November.

Any other business

The current website is more expensive than needs to be and Susie Ranford has kindly agreed to explore other alternatives before the next AGM. Member were requested to get in touch if there were any features they would like to see included in the new website.

The AGM closed at 6.15pm.

Jinty Smart 22nd November 2023

Note:

Following the Supper, Tuppence Mellish put herself forward as an ordinary committee member. She was opted on until AGM approval in 2024.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1) Introduction

I would like to acknowledge the help and support I have received from Iain Allison and others in my first year as membership secretary.

Agenda item - Club finances

Membership subscription is extremely modest and easily overlooked. I recommend a Committee discussion to plan for the future under this item.

2) Membership statistics

Number of members	179
Number of new members	8
Number of resignations	1
Number of deceased	2

3) New members

Norman Smith
Andrew Brooks
Maiwenn Beadle
Stephen Goodwin
Fraser Hope
Angus and Margaret Mackenzie
Oliver Smaje
Sam Voerman

4) Deceased members

Dr Jean Balfour, CBE, FRSE, FRSA
4 Nov 1927- 27 February 2023
President, Scottish Arctic Club 1998- 2001

Mike Lea, died 24 April 2023
past President Scottish Arctic Club 2010- 2013
Also former President of The Arctic Club

5) Resigned

David Atkinson, resigned illness; 7 October 2022

6) Administration

a) Application Process forms and letters

These were updated.

b) Members Contacts list and summary changes information.

With a great deal of help, this was updated and circulated first in July and then, thanks to further feedback, in August. Given the number of changes at the last AGM, it included further information on the Committee, and an update on membership.

c) Register of Members

Formerly, a single excel file contained 20 years worth of membership details. This file has been archived and a rather more manageable version created covering the last three years.

d) Communication

Please note that, to my knowledge, three members have no e-mail communication and therefore rely on the post; Tamara Beck-Slinn, Elizabeth Patterson and Sheila McCulloch.

e) Members' methods of payment

Payment of subscriptions was encouraged by sending out a reminder with the circulation of the contacts list in the summer. To date some 70 members have paid. Most members now pay by BACs transfer but only about 20 pay by standing order. A fair number use cheques. I propose to do a chaser after the Gathering.

Jane Craxton, November 2023



INCOME

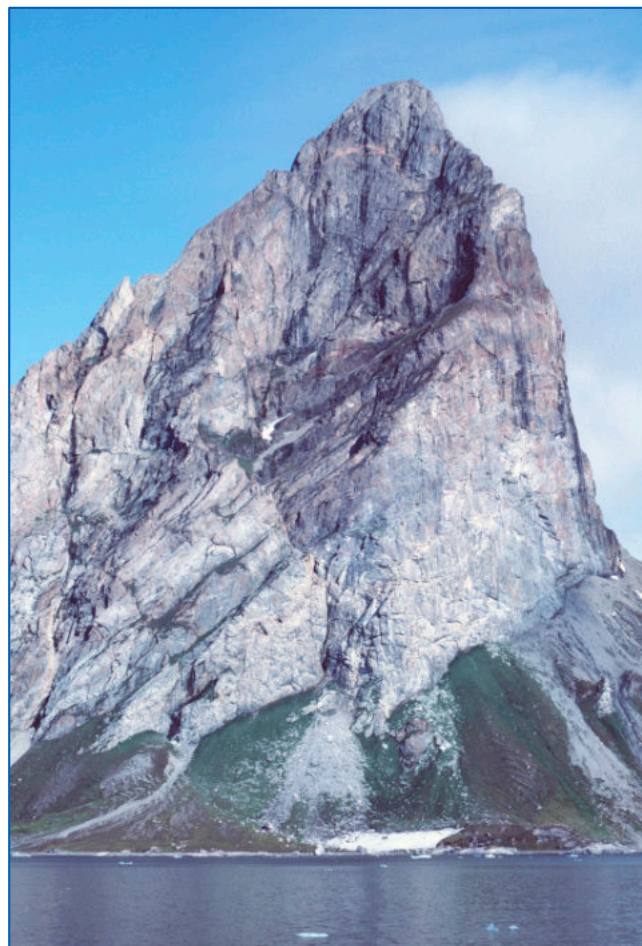
Subscriptions:			
Annual Subscriptions 22/23	£470.00		
Annual Subscriptions 23/24	£110.00		
Total		£580.00	
Gathering fees:			
Gathering fee 2022	£470.00		
Total		£470.00	
Attadale fees:			
Attadale fees 2023	£3,842.00		
Total		£3,842.00	
SAEF donations paid into SAC account:			
Gathering 2022 raffle income	£438.00		
Members donations 2022/23	£36.00		
Total		£474.00	
Total income		£5,366.00	

EXPENDITURE

Carrbridge Annual Dinner costs:			
Hire of room/afternoon tea	£229.10		
Name badges	£2.99		
Dinner/accommodation SAEF guests	£894.50		
Total		£1,126.59	
Attadale Expenditure:			
Accommodation	£3,330.00		
Food	£253.75		
2022 Attadale Food	£134.45		
Total		£3,718.20	
Administration costs:			
Website expenses	£143.86		
Stamps and Stationary	£6.24		
Photocopying	£145.87		
Total		£295.97	
Transfer of donations to SAEF:			
Balance from 2021/22	£800.00		
Gathering raffle 2022	£438.00		
Attadale 2023 Surplus	£258.25		
Total		£1,496.25	
Total expenditure		£6,637.01	

BANK BALANCE

Bank balance at 31 August 2022	£5,056.29
Annual income	£5,366.00
Annual expenditure	£6,637.01
Bank balance at 31 August 2023	£3,785.28
Decrease in balance	£1,271.01



Note: The decrease in the bank balance at 31 August 2023 is accounted for by 2021/22 FY outgoings (£934) being made in the 2022/23 FY, and a £372 annual loss on income from membership and gathering fees minus 2022 Gathering expenditure and administrative costs. The outstanding balance of SAEF donations is £36 (this was paid to SAEF in the 2023/24 FY).

SCOTTISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION FUND UPDATE

The fund exists to help fund expeditions to the Arctic for young people up to the age of thirty with a Scottish connection. Reports of previously funded expeditions are on the SAC website.

Writing competition

Five entries were received for the club's 'The Arctic and Me' writing competition, all very different and the judges (Myrtle Simpson, Douglas Anderson and the anonymous donor of the prize) had a challenging, but enjoyable, task.

The winner was Ellis O'Connor, for her piece *The Silence is the Loudest Part* and she was presented with her prize at the Gathering in Fort William. The prize was the 18th century first edition Hans Egede book on Greenland, which came in a beautiful Solander presentation box made by Chris Calver.

Grants

Applications for the next round of funding are due in by 31 January; details and forms on the SAC website. Please do alert your young friends and relations to the existence of the fund. Posters (paper and digital) are available from Sue if you have anywhere suitable to display them.

If you should feel so inclined to Gift Aid your donation, forms already sent in are valid – unless your own circumstances, address, etc have changed. Donations are welcome whatever the time of year. A form is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Banking details

The SAEF bank account for receiving donations is:

Sort code: 82-67-04

Account: 20109358

Sue Fenton, Secretary/Treasurer
Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund

Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund (SAEF) SC046857

Treasurer's Report
1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Balance at bank 01/09/2022 = £13,966.29
Balance at bank 31/08/2023 = £8,072.12

INCOME

Surplus from SAC Attadale holiday 2023	£258.25
Interest on current account 2022/23	£373.94
Donations from SAC members	£3,149.00
Amazon Smile Europe Care	£31.14
HMRC Charities Gift Aid	£793.50

Total £4,605.83

Transfer to 1 year fixed savings account
(matures January 2024) £5,000

EXPENDITURE

Expedition Grants awarded:

Claire Mellish, North West Passage Row	£1,500
Louise Mercer, North West Territories environment PhD	£1,000

Myrtle & Hugh Simpson Award:

Harry Newmark <i>et al</i> East Greenland climbing	£3,000
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Total £10,500

BALANCE of Income/Expenditure: - £5,894.17



Ellis O'Connor receiving her prize
at the Annual Gathering

SCW Fenton, Treasurer SAEF

1 September 2023



UPDATE OF TRAIL ISLAND PHOTOGRAPH SHOWN IN LAST NEWSLETTER



Trail Island 1991
King Oscar's Fjord, East Greenland

From left to right:

Dr Hugh Lang (pressing the button for the photo)
Hugh Montgomery
Bob Burton (Leader)
Douglas Peacock

John Arnott
Ros Grant
Rolf Dornbach (German ornithologist)
Jean Balfour
Now identified as Pauline Bastow
Ray Woolmore



SAC WEBSITE UPDATE

The Scottish Arctic Club's website is moving to a new web host this summer. This provides us with an opportunity to refresh the appearance and function of the website.

Susie, Ranford, website editor, is open to suggestions on how it can be improved. Send your ideas to her at: susie.allison@gmail.com



CLIMBING EXPEDITION TO GREENLAND

Club member, Jim Gregson, tells us that there is an interesting article covering a sailing/climbing expedition to Renland via Scoresby Sound which can be found on the UK Climbing website. Its title is *Journey to the Mirror Wall* and contains lots of photographs plus a good saga of sailing through difficult ice to get there, and one unfortunate accident.

The report is 28 pages long and can be found here: https://www.ukclimbing.com/articles/trip_reports/franco_cooksons_journey_to_the_mirror_wall-15518



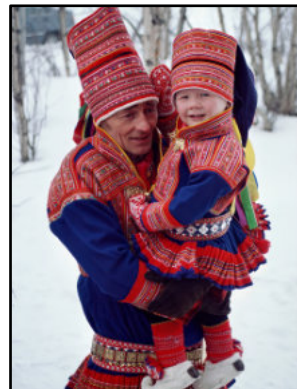
THEN AND NOW: THE CHANGING FACE OF THE ARCTIC

Bryan Alexander, a club member, has travelled to the Arctic every year since 1971 to document life in the

north's indigenous communities. His recent book *Then and Now* highlights some of the changes that have taken place in these remote Arctic communities during the past half century.

Produced in a large landscape format, the 96-page book contains 170 beautifully reproduced photographs in colour and black & white printed on high quality paper. It is a limited edition of 75 copies, each individually numbered and signed, and comes in a presentation box. Price £175.00 with free shipping to UK and Europe.

For more information contact: alexander@arcticphoto.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1863-766667



Note that the SAC has purchased a copy which, from the end of February, you will be able to view at the SAC Library in the RSGS office in Perth (Lord John Murray House, 15-19 North Port, Perth PH1 5LU).

SCOTTISH ARCTIC EXPEDITION FUND
2024 Donation Form

NAME: *(please PRINT)* _____

Donation: £ _____

The **Scottish Arctic Club** has an **Expedition Fund** which is a registered charity (SC046857) now entering its eighth year. The fund makes financial awards to encourage young people under 30 years of age 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 £250 to £3,000.

A list of recent awards may be seen on the club's website:

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

Those awarded grants are invited to make a presentation at the Annual Gathering about their adventures.

Thank you for your kind donation to the Expedition Fund. If you are eligible to claim Gift Aid, please complete the section below. If you Gift Aided in the past, and your circumstances have not changed, then there is no need to resubmit your details.

Donations are payable to **Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund (NOT Scottish Arctic Club)**

I enclose a cheque

I have set up a standing order

I have paid by bank transfer

I will pay at Gathering

(Please circle as appropriate)

The Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund's bank account details are:

Clydesdale/Virgin Bank

Sort code 82-67-04

Account number 20109358

IBAN GB15CLYD82670420109358

BIC CLYDGB21704

GIFT AID

Boost your donation by 25p 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 (Treasurer/Secretary SAEF),
Polladoran, Clachan Seil, Oban PA34 4TJ Tel: 01852 300545

Email: scottisharcticexpeditionfund@gmail.com

Forms may be completed and returned electronically if payment is made by bank transfer; to do this, an editable Word version is included with this newsletter