



## SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

### Post AGM Newsletter - December 2013

*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.*

#### Papers relating to the 2013 AGM

- Minutes of the AGM held in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 (see below, page 9)
- Treasurer's accounts (tabled at AGM) (see below page 11)
- Membership Information List, Dec. 2013. Please notify the secretary of any errors, missing members etc. (Separate file)

**Membership data may NOT be used for commercial purposes**

#### Expedition Fund

Grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the Expedition Fund either with a donation when paying their subscription or at the Gathering. The average donation in this way is £14.

- Donations: £945
- Raffle: £356
- Whisky draw: £62
- Auctions: £285

Thanks to Elizabeth and John Hay for donating the whisky and arranging the draw again this year. To Ashley and Stella who sold the raffle tickets and ran a very efficient raffle. To Anne and Chris Bartle for donating such a wonderful set of prints for auction – Lieut. Cresswell, North West Passage Prints and to Rob and Sue David for donating an original Inuit print from Cape Dorset.

**Sunday Walk:** Once again Liz Patterson led a walk, with just two members this year, up Glen Nevis to the waterfall of An Steall taking advantage of the fine autumn morning.

**45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering & Supper  
14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014  
Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William  
Phone number 01397 702331  
[www.strathmorehotels.com](http://www.strathmorehotels.com)**

For 2014 we return to Fort William where the 2013 Gathering was so successful and enjoyed by the 90 members who attended. The Supper will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The hotel has been booked for the nights of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>. Dinner, bed and breakfast - rate per person, per night in a double room is £37. Dinner for non-residents is £20. The same rate will apply if members wish to stay for Friday and Sunday nights as well.

**Meantime BOOK DATES in your diaries**

**Season's Greetings and all good wishes for 2014  
from the SAC Committee**

**Talks at the Annual Gathering in Fort William**  
Ninety members and guests enjoyed an excellent programme of well illustrated talks.

***British Exploring Society's Expedition to Arctic Finnmark, Northern Norway 2013***

Mairi Gilmour, Ed Lavender, Katie Lumsdaine & Esme Moore (SAC grants)

**Northern Exposure**

Jenny Newall (SAC grant)

**Svartisen Ice cap, Northern Norway**

Alexandra Messerli (SAC grant)

**South Stauning Alps**

Chris Gilmore

***East Greenland memories 1961-1990: 30 years of expeditions in NE Greenland***

Geoffrey Halliday

**Insects and farming in SW Greenland**

Ashley Buchan

**Schrimshaw and the whaling disaster of 1777**

Mike Lea

**East Greenland, summer 2013**

John Peden

**Twenty years in East Greenland**

Jim Gregson

**Geological fieldwork in southern Greenland**

Anna Bidgood (presented by her father, Nigel, in her absence)

**Alaska in January**

Stella Spratley

Unfortunately, technical difficulties prevented us seeing the film on '**Tales from the Russian taiga**' by Ronan Dugan (SAC grant). We hope to have it available from the website in the new year.

**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.

The deadline of 31 January applies.

See 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.

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**Committee for 2013-2014**

At the AGM last month, Chris Gilmore left the committee with the committee's thanks for his contributions to the running of the Club and especially for providing the audio-visual equipment for the gathering and for coping with the ever-present challenges. John Peden assumed the role of President leaving a vacancy for a new Vice President. Douglas Anderson was proposed by the committee and duly elected. The committee proposed Jenny Newall for the vacant committee position and she was elected. The Secretary, Iain Allison, was due to stand down at this AGM; however, he agreed to serve for one, and only one, more year so that the President and Secretary do not change together.

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**Glacier Books** had their usual extensive display of books on the Arctic and mountainous areas for perusal and purchase. And Jim Gregson had copies of his 2012 book, **Exploring Greenland**, for purchase.

**2014 SPRING MEET - Attadale**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014**

The 2014 Spring Meet of the Scottish Arctic Club will return to Attadale Lodge near Strathcarron in Wester Ross from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014. There are 4 self-catering cottages about a mile up the glen from the lodge with its magnificent gardens. See [www.attadale.com](http://www.attadale.com). It is a marvellous area for walking with numerous interesting tracks into the hills and lochs and across passes. There is also the garden to explore and Skye, Kintail, Applecross and even Torridon are not far away. We have booked 3 of these cottages for this week. This gives accommodation for 19 persons. It will allow us to be flexible with the length of time people wish to spend there i.e. from 2 days to 7 days and also when they wish to stay.

If you are interested in this Spring Meeting see our web site or please contact the Mike Lea on [mikejlea@gmail.com](mailto:mikejlea@gmail.com), telephone 01768 342353

<p><b>Dundee Mountain Film Festival</b></p> <p>Many members attended this festival on 27-30 November 2013. Jean Stenico had an exhibition of his etchings and prints from Greenland, Svalbard and South Georgia. Hans-Peter and Brigitte Grossman had an exhibition of photographs of Arctic scenes from Svalbard, Greenland and Arctic Canada as well as of flowers, butterflies and other insects.</p>	<p><b>Richard A Hamilton, Arctic Journal Northeastland</b></p> <p>Members may recall at the Gathering in 2012, Elspeth Hamilton selling copies of the above book which the family had privately published. Elspeth has now donated £118.34 to the Expedition Fund being the proceeds from the sale of this book during the last year. She had transcribed the hand-written journal notes for this book. She writes: <i>“I am sure that my father would very much approve of profit made from the publication of his 1935/36 expedition journal being donated to this worthy organisation”</i></p>
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**Facebook and Twitter**

The Club has a presence on both of these social networking sites and items of interest are posted a few times a month. Here is a selection from last month.

*Nov. 18 An ‘abundance’ of bears: Aglukkaq cold-shoulders the science – about northern canadian politics*

[www.ipolitics.ca/2013/10/28/an-abundance-of-bears-aglukkaq-cold-shoulders-the-science/](http://www.ipolitics.ca/2013/10/28/an-abundance-of-bears-aglukkaq-cold-shoulders-the-science/)

Aglukkaq is the first Inuk to lead the Arctic Council. Her comments on her new responsibilities, however, give us some dire insights into her views. She is [dismissive of science and scientists](#) and strongly in favour of Arctic resource development. “For 16 years, the Arctic Council has been very focused on research — science research,” she said. “... We talk about this as an area that is developing ... It’s the private sector that’s actually going to develop those regions — not scientists.”

*Nov. 16 ‘Why We Aren’t Ready for an Active Arctic’*

<http://www.thearcticinstitute.org/2013/11/why-we-arent-ready-for-active-arctic.html>

Over the past ten years, increased economic activity in the Arctic has led to a rise in intra-Arctic destination shipping related to tourism and petroleum exploration. Concerns are growing over the possibility of a major incident in the Arctic’s hostile waters, and yet the governments of Canada and the United States are struggling to empower the coast guards responsible to deal with this new reality in their Arctic territories.

Located far away from the Arctic, both geographically and consciously, federal governments in Washington and Ottawa have been slow to act, preoccupied with what they perceive as the more pressing concerns of voter-rich locations farther south. Nowhere is this more apparent than in emergency preparedness and response. As activity increases in the North, the inherent risks need to be dealt with before there is a major incident which harms the environment, or worse, leads to loss of life.

Building the capacity to deal with emergency situations needs to be high on the North American agenda. By contrast, the European Arctic maritime territories (e.g. Norway, Russia and Iceland) have long been integrated within their national economies, given the countries’ relative Arctic focus related to milder climatic conditions. As a consequence, emergency management capabilities are generally better developed, as activity levels have also been higher in this part of the Arctic.

*Nov. 10 Hudson Bay Lowlands show signs of change*

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=global-warming-finally-reaches-the-last-arctic-region>

Lakes of the [Hudson Bay Lowlands](#), in northeast Canada, are showing evidence of abrupt change in one of the last Arctic regions of the world to have experienced [global warming](#), according to Canadian research [published](#) in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B journal.

*Nov. 5 North-East glass artist shares photo's of journey to Svalbard*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-24625198>

An artist from the National Glass Centre in Sunderland has spent three weeks in the Arctic Circle with a group of strangers from around the world for a "creative residency". Head of enterprise, commissioning and the studio, Chris Blade is more used to molten glass at temperatures of 800C to 1150C. He had to take special precautions to protect his camera from the cold and its lens from shattering. The end of summer weather was "almost pleasant" at about -10C.

*Nov 3 New UK Government policy on Arctic likely to anger environmentalists*

<http://energyblog.nationalgeographic.com/2013/10/25/uk-arctic-policy-environmental-commercial-interests/>

The British government's long-awaited "[policy framework](#)" on the Arctic is not likely to please environmentalists who would like to see an outright moratorium on oil and natural gas drilling. But Clive Archer, emeritus professor and former head of the Manchester Metropolitan University's European Institute, who has studied Arctic issues extensively, believes it is an important starting point. Archer recently participated in a [National Geographic Great Energy Challenge forum on the science of change in the Arctic](#). -Editor

The British government has issued its first Arctic policy framework called "Adapting to Change: U.K. Policy Towards the Arctic." It is produced by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the ministry that leads on Arctic matters in the U.K. government. Specifically the document deals with British interests in the Arctic, how the U.K. will deal with Arctic and other interested states about the region, and the experience that the U.K. has to offer.

*Nov 1 Debate over new mine opening in Finnmark, Norway*

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/2013/10/21/arctic-interests-clash-over-mining/>

The recent discovery of new and potentially lucrative mineral veins containing copper in the mountains above the Repparfjord in Finnmark looks set to stir up more conflicts over natural resources in Northern Norway. The mining company involved wants to dump its tailings in the fjord, and that's set off protests from the fishing industry and environmentalists.

The next newsletter should be with you in March. It is **your** newsletter, so contributions are welcomed.

## **Gathering and Supper 2013: photographs**

Here are a few photographs from the Saturday.



**Photographs from the Supper and one from the Gathering**



















**SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of the AGM** held at the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 5.45 pm with Mike Lea, President, in the chair and 55 members present

Apologies were received from: Susan Aikens, Douglas Anderson, Robert Burton, George Downie, James, Sue and Mairi Fenton, Brigitte and Hans-Peter Grossman, Robin Lloyd-Jones, Allan and Evelyn McNicol, Donald MacRae, Craig Mathieson, Ruaraidh O'Brien, Rod Pashley, Chris Ravey, Louise Scott, Jean and Sheena Stenico, John and Claire Thorogood, Anthony and Janet Walker

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012**, which had previously been circulated, held at Scotland's Hotel, Pitlochry, were proposed as an accurate record by John Peden, seconded by Jean Balfour and accepted by those present.

2. **Matters arising**

2.1 The report by BSES (now BES) into the fatal polar bear attack in Svalbard in 2011 has still not been made public as the inquest into the death of Horatio Chapple has yet to start.

3. **Annual Report and Accounts**

Mike Lea spoke to his report which had previously been circulated and copies tabled. He noted the eleven presentations of a high standard which made for a successful Gathering in 2012. The Spring meeting again at Attadale was a success with 21 members and guests staying for varying lengths of time during the week. He will pass round a sign-up sheet for Attadale 2014 later. In 2013, fourteen awards were made from the Expedition Fund for the BES expedition to Finnmark and for other expeditions and research projects in the Arctic. The Accounts were tabled and Chris Calver, treasurer, spoke to these going through the income and expenditure items. The President thanked the treasurer for his accounts made under trying circumstances since he only gained access to the account a month ago following the change in treasurer a year ago. The President proposed these as an accurate record of the Club's finances, this was seconded by Douglas Peacock and approved by the meeting.

4. **Secretaries Report**

Iain Allison spoke to his report which had been circulated previously. The membership had increased slightly and stood at 163 at the start of this session. Three Newsletters were distributed with the majority by email. Social media served a valuable service in alerting members to items of topical interest.

5. **Expedition Fund**

Mike Lea noted that at the previous AGM, the Club had asked the Committee to look into the possibility of gaining charitable status for the Expedition Fund to take advantage of Gift Aid. Chris Calver, as treasurer, had agreed to take matters further and he spoke about his researches. He had looked at how the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator worked and at its English equivalent and noted that many charities are losing their status. To be a charity, the Club requires to offer a clear public benefit which at the moment is just our website. As noted in the previous minutes if only the Expedition Fund were to be the charitable entity we would need a separate trust, trustees and constitution or be closely linked to another charitable body. Not all income whether as fees or donations is eligible for Gift Aid. So, in conclusion the treasurer noted that we had a sustainable method of raising about £3000 each year for the Expedition Fund and the Club would be unlikely to be able to register the Fund as a charity. Although there would be only a small financial gain from Gift Aid at present, the situation may be different for a single significant donation. Discussion from the floor stressed that if we could link with another charity, and the Royal Scottish Geographical

Society (RSGS) was mentioned, we must remain firmly in control of how the fund is disbursed. Further discussion noted our very flexible criteria for awarding grants which then led to a very interesting programme of talks. In conclusion, the meeting agreed, *nem. con.*, to continue with the status quo.

## **6 Expedition Reports and Database**

The President invited Kathleen Cartwright to address the meeting as she has been the contact between the Club and RSGS. Kathleen noted that our expedition reports and Angus Erskine's library now reside in Fair Maid's House in Perth. Although Club volunteers were planning to compile a list of our past reports, the RSGS is currently in the process of doing just that using their own volunteers who work once a week. When completed, they will all be accessible online. There was a query about copyright should a member request a copy of a report and Kathleen advised to contact the RSGS. Kathleen further remarked that in the agreement drawn up by Peter Mackay at the time of the transfer of our library it was stated that the collection would remain separate. A member asked about future additions to the library and was referred to Kathleen.

## **7 Website**

Fraser Sutherland commented on his report previously circulated. Louise Scott's funding of the website runs till September 2014 and it will be reviewed then. Fraser commented on the use of Facebook and Twitter to inform members of items of interest in the months between newsletters. There being no questions, the President thanked Fraser for his work in bringing the website up to date.

## **8 Committee**

The President, Mike Lea, Vice President, John Peden, Secretary, Iain Allison and committee member, Chris Gilmore are all due to retire from the committee at this AGM. Mike Lea proposed John Peden for the post of President. There being no further nominations, John Peden was duly elected, *nem. con.* Douglas Anderson was proposed by the committee for the post of Vice President and there being no further nominations was duly elected, *nem. con.* No nominations for the post of secretary were forthcoming so Iain Allison agreed to serve one further year (followed by applause) so that President and Secretary did not change at the same time. The committee proposed Jenny Newall for the committee and, again, there being no other nominations, was duly elected, *nem. con.*

## **9 Spring Meet**

The venue at Attadale has proved to be so popular that it was booked again for 2014; the dates being Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May. Nineteen places are available for 1 to 7 nights and there are normally two communal meals during the week. A sign-up sheet will be circulated later in the evening.

## **10 Annual Gathering and Supper 2014**

The President proposed that the Club consider 3 venues, this one, the Ben Nevis Hotel, in Fort William, the Salutation Hotel in Perth and the Royal Hotel in Oban, all part of the Strathmore Hotels Group. There was a lively discussion of the pros and cons of each. Points raised include: the poor parking available in Oban and Perth and the need for some members to drive rather than use public transport which may not exist for some or in order to bring equipment; the excellent facilities in the Ben Nevis Hotel where we have a room separate from the dining room and also plentiful parking; other hotels in both Oban and Perth may also be suitable. The consensus was to book the Ben Nevis Hotel again for November 2014 for a suitable weekend in the first half of the month. It was further noted from the floor that some clubs are now booking their annual meetings two years in advance.

## **11 Sunday morning walk**

Liz Patterson will lead a short walk to Steall Falls leaving at 10 am. Members wishing to go should meet in the foyer.

## **12 Any other business**

1. William Stanley Bryce (Stan) Paterson: Iain Smart wished to inform the meeting of the recent death of Stan Paterson a Scottish glaciologist who spent most of his working life in Canada so, although a founding member of the Club, seldom was able to come to meetings. It was he who donated the Club's maps of Greenland and Iain suggested that the Club purchases complementary maps of northern Russia and Canada in his memory. His influential book, *The Physics of Glaciers*, has been in print continuously since 1969 and is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition. [Note, the Secretary has long had a copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition]. It was noted that his wife is a cousin of Brian Duchart and that he wrote an autobiography of his time in South Georgia with Duncan Carse.



2. A round of applause marked the announcement that Myrtle Simpson had received the Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture at the 2013 Fort William Mountain Film Festival. See: <http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk/mountain-award/2013-myrtle-simpson/>
3. Chris Calver advertised a talk at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, by Ms Frigga Kruse, an archaeology/geology graduate of the University of Glasgow, on her PhD research on Historical British mining in Spitsbergen.
4. John Peden proposed a vote of thanks to President, Mike Lea, for guiding the Club over the past 3 years.

The meeting closed at 6.45 and 88 members and guests sat down to dinner at 7.30 pm

## **Scottish Arctic Club**

### **Treasurer's Report** for the AGM, 16 November 2013 31 August 2012 – 31 August 2013

Balance at bank 31/8/12	<b>£7227</b>
Balance at bank 31/8/13	<b>£7023</b>
Reduction in balance	<b><u>£204</u></b>
<b>Income 2012/13</b>	<b>£</b>
Subscriptions	595
Gathering fees	780
Raffle	357
Book sale	180
Print Auction	150
Whisky Draw	60
Donations to Expedition Fund	900
Attadale Meet 2012	100
Attadale Meet 2013	<u>2236</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£5358</b>
<b>Expenditure 2012/13</b>	<b>£</b>
Office expenses	12
Gathering	402
Attadale Meet 2013	1832
Attadale Meet 2014 Deposit	496
Expedition Grants	<u>2820</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£5562</b>
<b>Deficit 2012/13</b>	<b><u>£204</u></b>

Chris Calver, Treasurer