



## SCOTTISH ARCTIC CLUB

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

### Newsletter - Spring 2018

*President: Douglas Anderson,*

*Vice President: Stella Spratley*

*Secretary: Ashley Buchan, Treasurer: Chris Calver,*

*Committee members: Matthew Burke, Chris Gilmore, Elspeth Hamilton, Cameron Mackay, Noel Williams, Aythya Young*

[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.*

### Date for your diary

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

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William**

**Phone number 01397 702331**

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

### DATA PROTECTION POLICY: GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

On the 25th of May 2018 new data protection regulations will come into effect in the United Kingdom - the General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR.

**Please review and respond to the note and consent form attached at the end of this newsletter.** If we do not receive a positive response on this from you we will be obliged to remove you from our database and necessarily you will receive no future communications from us!

## **\*Update\* Scottish Arctic Expedition Fund (SAEF) SC046857**

Sue Fenton, SAEF Treasurer

The Scottish Arctic Club has transferred funds to SAEF, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), which now has its own functioning bank account. Donations to the expedition fund may now also be gift aided.

Grants are awarded annually, with preference given to Scots under 30 years old undertaking independently-organised expeditions.

In 2018, the trustees agreed to award a total of £1,700 to four expeditions. [A fifth expedition has been held over for a possible reapplication in 2019, having been unable to leave this spring as initially planned].

2018 SAEF grants:

- Oliver Rice £200, for a university expedition, including geology, to Finnmark.
- Regina Huttunen £300, to help fund SAMS/UNIS fieldwork in Svalbard.
- Lewis Jepson £200, for participation in the World Arctic Fund quest to find the airship Italia off Svalbard.
- Matthew Hay £1000, for a two person scientific/climbing expedition to the Staunings Alps, East Greenland.

### **“50 years of the SAC” Expedition**

Stella Spratley

I have had a couple of responses to my request for suggestions. John Peden is planning a sailing trip to East Greenland, maybe Scoresby Sund or further north. He has no fixed plan at the moment, but climbing in the Staunings may be involved.

James Gregson has a plan for a major first. Vinkeldal Valley crosses Milne Land in the fjord system of Scoresby Sund. It is an arctic version of the Grand Canyon and to James's knowledge, no party has ever trekked through it. It would be a 'heavy duty' backpacking trip rather than technical mountaineering.

This could be combined with a less demanding trip to Denmark Island off the south coast of Milne Land. There is a hut to supplement camping, and plenty of opportunities for hiking, flora, fauna and historic sites.

Many many thanks to James and John for their suggestions.

If anyone has any comments or further suggestions, please contact me via [spratley42@hotmail.com](mailto:spratley42@hotmail.com)

### **“50 years of the SAC” - Club History**

Iain Allison

Below is a transcription of a typed memo from George Waterston, dated 1 November 1976, to Iain Smart, Bill Wallace, Phil Gribbon and Hugh Simpson. The original may be viewed in the Club's Archives at the University of Dundee.

#### The Scottish Arctic Club

A meeting of interested parties – Dr Iain Smart, Dr Phil Gribbon, Dr Hugh Simpson, Dr George Waterston and Mr William Wallace – met at 21 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1970 to prepare a draft Constitution. This was done; but it has never been put to a General Meeting for ratification. Instead a series of annual buffet suppers have taken place on an entirely informal basis – also rather haphazard. Dr Iain Smart has acted as Chairman and Bill Wallace as Secretary, but the Committee has not met since 1970. No statements of accounts have been rendered; so no-one knows whether Bill is 'out' or 'in' pocket on expenses involved in organising and paying for the Annual Buffet Suppers !

I have written to Bill to suggest that the existing Committee should meet sometime prior to the Buffet Supper on 20<sup>th</sup> November to finalise the draft Constitution, receive a statement of accounts, and make proposals for Office-bearers and the Committee.

In order to help things along, G.W. has prepared a slightly amended 2<sup>nd</sup> draft Constitution for approval by the Committee and for final ratification at the Annual Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November

### 2<sup>nd</sup> draft Constitution

#### 1. NAME.

The Club shall be called "The Scottish Arctic Club".

#### 2. OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club shall be :-

- (a) To provide opportunities for the exchange of information on research and travel in high latitudes.
- (b) To encourage good expedition practice and thereby establish good relations with those governments administering polar territories.
- (c) An Annual meeting will be held within three months of the end of the financial year (30<sup>th</sup> September) when the Treasurer will submit audited accounts for approval.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP.

Club membership is open to anyone with a sustained interest in the Arctic. Prospective members must be proposed and seconded by existing Members of the Club, and election approved by a majority at the Club's A.G.M. It is a condition of Membership that an Entrance Fee shall be paid the amount to be determined by the Committee.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION.

The Club shall be administered by a Committee of six from whom the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to elect an Hon. Pres. Office-bearers will be elected for three years. Two members of the Committee will retire annually and will be ineligible for election for one year. The Committee shall have powers to co-opt further non-voting members. Three Committee Members will form a quorum at any meeting of the Committee.

#### 5. FINANCES

The Committee will have control of the Funds and Finances of the Club. The Accounts will be audited annually by an auditor appointed by the Committee. Property and assets shall be vested in the Committee which may if necessary appoint Trustees.

#### 6. CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Club as agreed at the Annual Supper on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1976 can only be altered by a written resolution to the Secretary not less than 28 days before the A[nnual] S[upper].

The Resolution will be read out by the ~~President~~ at the A.G.M. and must be approved by a 2/3rds majority of Members present and voting.

Signed George 1 Nov '76

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Below, also provided by Iain Allison and taken from the Club's Archives; an article on "The Mikkelsen Mission" from the Weekend Scotsman, dated 26th July 1969, the year of the founding of the SAC with Iain Smart and Malcolm Slessor.

# Greenland's last unknown

## THE EXPEDITIONARIES



Allan Pettit (24) is a dentist from Brechin, in Angus. He is a climber of the new school, skilled in the hardest routes, and has made one trip to Greenland.



Dr Malcolm Slesser (42) is a biological chemist on the staff of Strathclyde University. Known internationally as a mountaineer and Greenland explorer. This will be his sixth Arctic visit.



Dr Iain Smart (40), lecturer in Anatomy at Dundee University, has been to Greenland four times. He is a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club and the Arctic Club.



Major Carlos Ziebell (55), of the Danish Army. A former trapper, he speaks Eskimo fluently. Joined the famous Greenland sledge patrol, who maintain vital weather stations, during the last war.

## THE MIKKELSEN MISSION

Next Friday, a four-man expedition will set out to scale the highest unclimbed peak in the Arctic—the 10,700ft Mount Mikkelsen, 18 miles inland from the forbidding, ice-bound Blosseville Coast of North-east Greenland. The team, three Scots and a Dane, will thread their way through the pack ice in 16-foot open boats from Scoresby Sund to Grivel Bay—establishing food and fuel dumps en route—from where the final assault on Mikkelsen will be launched. The party will be led by Dr MALCOLM SLESSER. In this article he examines the achievements of previous explorers in this region and explains the objectives of his own expedition.

SCOTSMAN 26/7/69

Weekend Scotsman 26/7/69

## Member news

### North Liverpool Land Expedition 2018

Jim and Sandy Gregson

SAC members and regular Greenland expeditioners Jim and Sandy Gregson will be making a return visit to the striking mountains of North Liverpool Land, East Greenland (N71 W22) where with four companions they hope to make more first ascents and explore the northern glaciers a little further afield from locations where they have previously been active in recent years. Their expedition will be away from the UK from mid-April to mid-May, supported by grant aid from the Gino Watkins Memorial Fund, the Mount Everest Foundation and the Austrian Alpine Club UK.



### Jane Rushton: Arctic Dialogue(s) Exhibition

Scott Polar Research Institute  
25 April 2018 – 1 September 2018  
Free Entry



Opening on 25 April 2018, the Polar Museum is pleased to present a new exhibition by artist Jane Rushton; 'Arctic Dialogue(s): Conversations between Art & Science'.

Taking its title from the idea that artists and scientists often share common interests, concerns and methodologies, the exhibition examines how responding to these through art can create an alternative way of looking at an environment.

The exhibition of drawings and mixed media work, some of which will be displayed for the first time in the UK, provides an expanded dialogue on a constantly changing arctic environment. It is particularly timely as a part of the ongoing conversation around climate change and arctic science.

Whilst researching 'Arctic Dialogues', Jane spent time with a small group of Atmospheric Scientists in Spitzbergen on the Svalbard Archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole. Using this experience, Jane draws on shared activities, involving the notions of observation, investigation and experimentation under themes including scale, form, light and detail. Jane has also undertaken several research trips and exhibitions in West Greenland.

Jane Rushton said: "I have become interested in drawing on the knowledge and methodologies of science as a means of expanding my approach to material investigations, with the ultimate aim of making visually poetic work. The Polar Museum, with its resident scientists is a fitting place for an exhibition of works made in response to the unique environment of the Arctic."

Polar Museum Curator, Charlotte Connelly, said: "since our foundation, nearly a century ago, bringing together the art and science of the polar regions has been at the heart of what we do. Jane Rushton's exhibition does this beautifully."

'**Arctic Dialogue(s)**' will be on display until 1 September 2018 at the [Polar Museum](#). Admission is free. Normal opening hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10am – 4pm.

## John Rae Festival

John Rae Society  
4th - 6th May 2018

Following the success of the inaugural Festival in May 2017, the John Rae Society will hold a John Rae Festival from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018. We are thrilled to be joined by author and Patron of the John Rae Society, Ken McGoogan, whose 2001 book, *Fatal Passage*, told John Rae's story in vivid detail and has inspired many who have read it to campaign for better recognition for Dr Rae's achievements, and to join the John Rae Society.

We were delighted with the response to the 2017 Festival and grateful for everyone's interest and goodwill. Over four hundred people from Orkney, the wider UK, the US, Canada and Germany, attended events, and friendships were formed which have opened up further opportunities to raise awareness of John Rae and the Hall of Clestrain. Through sales of raffle and lottery tickets, books, merchandise and donations, we raised over £4000 during the Festival.

Ken McGoogan is a widely-travelled writer with an award-winning career as a journalist spanning two decades. A long-time literary editor at *The Calgary Herald*, he has also published three novels and *Canada's Undeclared War*, a controversial work of non-fiction. While researching *Fatal Passage*, McGoogan travelled to England, Scotland and the Arctic, where he placed a plaque commemorating John Rae's achievements on the shores of Rae Strait. His latest book is *Dead Reckoning: The Untold Story of the Northwest Passage*. He is now planning an expedition in spring 2019 with Scottish explorer, David Reid, to retrace John Rae's steps in the Arctic. Find out more at <https://www.arcticreturn.com/> and [http://kenmcgoogan.blogspot.co.uk/p/home\\_11.html](http://kenmcgoogan.blogspot.co.uk/p/home_11.html).

### The programme for the 2018 Festival is as follows:

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May** Ken McGoogan will give a public lecture at the Orkney Theatre, Kirkwall, at 7.30pm. The lecture will be free to attend, but donations towards the Hall of Clestrain project will be welcome, and John Rae Society raffle, lottery tickets and merchandise will be for sale. Signed copies of Ken McGoogan's books will also be available.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May** Hall of Clestrain all-day event to enable local people and interested visitors to Orkney to meet members of the John Rae Society, hear about our plans for the restoration and future of the Hall, and see our progress since our last open day in September 2017. We have a rolling PowerPoint presentation about the history of the building and the Society's plans, as well as a scale model of the Hall and various survey documents which will be available to view.

There will be refreshments and a sales table of John Rae Society raffle, lottery tickets, merchandise and another opportunity to buy Ken McGoogan's books. John Rae Society membership forms will also be available.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May** Hall of Clestrain all-day event following the same format as Saturday, followed by the screening of John Walker's 2008 documentary film *Passage* about John Rae's search for Franklin at 7.30pm in Stromness Town Hall. The film showing will be free to attend, but donations towards the Hall of Clestrain project will be welcome, and John Rae Society raffle, lottery tickets and merchandise will be for sale. Signed copies of Ken McGoogan's books will also be available.

The Festival will be another milestone in the John Rae Society's project to restore the Hall of Clestrain and we are planning more events and activities for the future.

For more information please contact [info@johnraesociety.com](mailto:info@johnraesociety.com) or visit [www.johnraesociety.com](http://www.johnraesociety.com)

## **Àite Iargalta | Forbidding Place Solo Exhibition**

Ellis O'Connor

5th May 2018 - 28th July 2018

\*Preview on Friday the 4th of May at 7pm.\*

I'm delighted to share with you all that my next Solo Exhibition of the year will be opening on the 5th of May at Taigh Chearsabhagh on North Uist! The paintings will be on exhibition until the 28th of July and I'm excited to have a brand new range of paintings on show at the wonderful space, even better as it's on the Island where I live! Here is a brief statement about what my show will be about:

'The paintings in this show are in response to Ellis's first winter spent living on the Island of North Uist and immersing herself in the wild often unforgiving elements that the Island is often exposed to. These works represent the movement and the rhythms of sea and land. Tangible moving rocks, the merging of sea with air, advancing rain and mist, ever changing light - elements that seem to be about something intangible. Within this body of work, Ellis aims to convey the landscape as more than just idyllic and beautiful. It is wild, ancient and incredibly varied whilst conjuring a dramatic atmosphere where we as humans feel so insignificant against the surroundings and our experience is heightened.'

For more information, visit <https://www.ellisoconnor.com/upcoming-exhibitions/> or contact [info@taigh-chearsabhagh.org](mailto:info@taigh-chearsabhagh.org)

### **Book recommendation**

Jim Gregson

David Bellamy's "ARCTIC LIGHT: An artist's journey in a frozen wilderness" publ. Search Press 2017  
ISBN:978-1-78221-423-6

This beautiful book contains a wealth of excellent watercolour illustrations from a variety of Arctic locations, covering landscapes, people, wildlife and more. It includes this tip for watercolour painters in really cold conditions — Try substituting GIN for water when working as it resists the cold due to alcohol concentration! (This could be a bit difficult if going to Greenland, where it is now forbidden to import any form of alcohol, even duty-free stuff).

### **Equipment for sale**

As a result of such a lengthy expedition career, Jim and Sandy have acquired a mass of gear and equipment, and some of it is now surplus to requirements. If any SAC members might be interested in obtaining any of these items - see for sale list below - for personal use, or as gifts for ambitious Scot, Arctic offspring or relatives please contact Jim or Sandy using details as in the SAC Membership List, for prices etc.

#### **FOR SALE**

All items listed are in very good condition, some having had only minimal usage.

- \*One pair Grivel 2F Crampons ( with anti-ball plates)
- \*One Petzl Elios helmet size 2, white
- \*One pair Black Diamond Whippet (self-arrest pick) 2-section ski poles
- \*One Alpkit 'Brukit' gas stove (jetboil type) incl.heat exchanger pot
- \*One matching pair Mountain Technology Ice Axe & Hammer 55cm, rubber-sleeved alloy shafts

- \*One Mountain Equipment 40L waterproof duffel
- \*One The North Face 90L waterproof duffel, red
- \*One Ortlieb Big Zip 110L waterproof duffel, yellow
- \*One Mountain Equipment Ladies Down Jacket, size 12, raspberry
- \*One Mountain Hardwear Ladies Goretex Jacket, size Small, cornflower blue

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Jim directly either via email ([jgregsonarctic@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jgregsonarctic@tiscali.co.uk)) or phone. **\*Please note\*** that Jim and Sandy will be on expedition in Greenland until mid-May 2018 and advise that email inquiries are more likely to be picked up than messages left on the telephone.

**Secretary: Ashley Buchan**  
**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**  
**Secretary's address: Flat K, 2A Dean Path, Edinburgh, EH4 3BA**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/scottisharcticclub/>**  
**Twitter: @ScotArcticClub**



## Scottish Arctic Club

### DATA PROTECTION POLICY: GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

On the 25th of May 2018, new data protection regulations will come into effect in the United Kingdom - the General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR. The purpose of this note is to tell you, as a member of the Scottish Arctic Club, the information we hold about you; how we keep it safe; and the purposes for which it is kept. The note also asks you for your positive consent to the Club making any contact with you on matters relating to the Scottish Arctic Club via email or post.

The GDPR principles to be followed are:

Transparency, fairness and lawfulness - we tell you what we hold and what data processing will be done. Our processing will meet one of the tests described in the regulations which you can find at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/>

Purpose limitation - we keep your information to allow us to communicate with you and will not use it for any new, incompatible purpose.

Data minimisation - we only hold personal information that is relevant to members of the trust.

Accuracy - members are responsible for taking all reasonable steps to ensure the personal information we hold is accurate.

Storage limitation - we will not retain your information for any longer than is necessary.

Integrity and confidentiality - we will keep your personal information secure.

**If you are happy that we continue to get in touch with you with information and communications beyond membership administration, could you please either tick the relevant boxes below and return the form via post or email to Ashley Buchan, secretary and now also our data protection officer under the new regulations, or copy and paste the statements below and send via email to [sacsecretaryvia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryvia@gmail.com).**

#### **The information we hold**

We hold your name, postal address and your email address. This information is held by the secretary.

#### **How the information is kept safe**

The information is held in a password-protected file. We will not pass any of this information to any other organisation without your consent.

Due to changes in data protection laws which come into effect on the 25th of May 2018, we require you to consent to the following in order to receive communications from the Scottish Arctic Club.

Please either, place a X in the boxes below and sign if you consent to the SAC:

- Retaining your postal and email address on a database
- Receiving communications by email
- Receiving communications by post
- Publishing your postal and email address in a contact list to be circulated among members of the SAC only

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Completed forms should be sent to: Ashley Buchan (SAC Secretary), Flat K, 2A Dean Path, Edinburgh EH4 3BA, or emailed to [sacsecretaryia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryia@gmail.com).

Alternatively, you may give your consent by copying and pasting those statements below which you agree with into an email and sending this to [sacsecretaryia@gmail.com](mailto:sacsecretaryia@gmail.com)

I consent to the SAC:

- Retaining my postal and email address on a database
- Receiving communications by email
- Receiving communications by post
- Publishing my postal and email address in a contact list to be circulated among members of the SAC only