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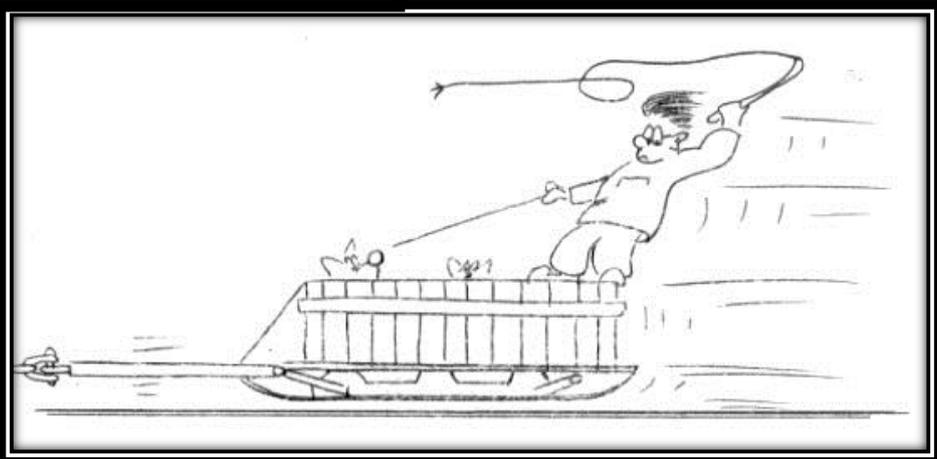
BAS CLUB

MAGAZINE



"Golly' testing his model 'Nansen' sledge"

"On the Shacks trip, the dogs were carried in kennels on cargo sledges"



"The new slippery plastic soled skis led to some awkward situations"



BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY CLUB COMMITTEE

OFFICE

RETIREMENT

President:	<i>Barry Heywood</i>	2019
Chairman:	<i>Terry Allen</i>	2020
Secretary:	<i>Tony Wincott</i>	2020
Treasurer:	<i>Dog Holden</i>	2019
Magazine Editor:	<i>Keith Gainey</i>	2019
Membership Secretary:	<i>Alex Gaffikin</i>	2020
Benevolent Secretary	<i>Allan Wearden</i>	2020
Member	<i>John Blunn</i>	2018
General Duties	<i>Anne Todd</i>	<i>co-opted</i>
Heritage Secretary:	<i>John Fry</i>	2018
Media Co-ordinator:	<i>Ellie Stoneley</i>	2017
Fuchs Medal	<i>Paul Coslett</i>	2018
Website Co-ordinator	<i>Beverley Ager</i>	<i>co-opted</i>
BAS Representative:	VACANT	
Recorder:	<i>Beverley Ager</i>	

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British Antarctic Survey Club



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Fids,

A new Terry updated Terry picture looking more youthful!!!

This edition of the BAS Club magazine is full of interest. I particularly enjoyed reading the book-reviews, with their mixture of academic insight and, at times, vitriolic opinion!

For those who missed out on being interviewed for the Oral History Project, there is an alternative, as proposed by John Edwards. I hope that the interesting personal history in the current publication, encourages other Fids to search the crevices of their mind, dig out their notes and "piccies", and put pen to paper (or its modern alternative), not just for all to enjoy, but as a permanent and multi-faceted record.

We all, of course, remember those who died in Antarctica, and during the 2018 AGM weekend attendees will be able to see the Memorial Orchard at BAS, a joint venture between the Club and BAS. Dick Harbour (Club original "moving force"), and Jo Rae (BAS lead), are both retiring after working for many years on the Orchard project. Both deserve a very special "thank-you", as does retiree Dave Sayward, for his work on the Orchard. We are also very grateful to those volunteers who have contributed in various ways to the success of the Orchard, including those who have maintained its bio-diversity.

Finally, you will see in the Benevolent Update, by Allan Wearden, mention of a dilemma in relation to the needy next-of kin of a Fid, but non-member of BAS Club. Help in such circumstances is not at present within the rules of the Benevolent Fund, though is something for members to think about and express opinions. Please let the Club know your thoughts.

Finally, may I wish you all health and goodwill for the festive season?

Terry Allen

November 2017

British Antarctic Survey Club

EDITORIAL

Firstly a change of self portrait.

Had a request to update my picture as members could not recognise me based on the 1968 picture at Halley – so here it is, a more recent me!!

The magazine gets many books for review and this edition is no exception. Of special note is Andrew Denley's written account of his two years spent at Rothera and Faraday - with all profits from the sale of the book going to Cancer Research in memory of his late wife

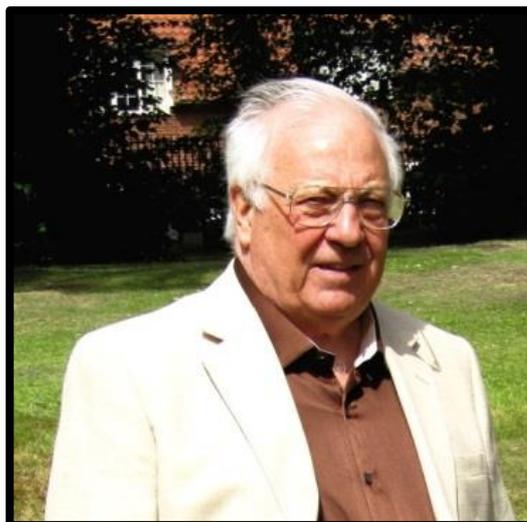
Other books centre around much historical information of Andrew Taylor's 1945 written diary, Whaling and Sir Raymond Priestly.

There has been some excellent reviewing of the books.

The front cover – thought I might include a 'bit' of humour . Cartoons were drawn by Chris Sykes (BL Halley 1968) and supplied by Peter Noble. I have had these for quite a while wondering when to use them. I am somewhat short of ideas for the front page this December so decided use a couple of them.

I have also used some as 'fillers' on some of the pages.

Hope they give you all a smile!!



BAS Club News

The British Antarctic Survey Club Minutes & records of 2017 Annual General Meeting

NOTE: These minutes or extracts thereof are NOT to be circulated or issued in any form to persons outside of the British Antarctic Club Committee without the approval of the BAS Club Committee
PMN = Post Minute Note QFTF = Question from the Floor

Meeting no: The 42nd Meeting

Venue: Eastwood Park, Gloucestershire

Date: Saturday June 24th 2017 17.30hrs (late start at 17.40)

Committee at Table :

Dr Barry Heywood (President) Terry Allen (Chairman) Dog Holden (Treasurer)

Tony Wincott (Secretary) Keith Gainey (Magazine Editor)

Committee in attendance:

Allan Wearden (Benevolent portfolio) John Fry (Heritage portfolio)

Paul Coslett (Fuchs Medal Secretary) John Blunn

Additional Distribution: Anne Todd , Ellie Stoneley, Bev Ager, Alex Gaffikin,

.....
Note: The proceedings of this meeting were recorded. The following minutes have been transcribed by the Secretary.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the AGM and introduced the Committee present. He advised that the meeting was to be recorded and requested that speakers state their names clearly for the record.

There followed a brief H&S notice from Alec Hurley

1 Apologies for absence received

Ann Todd,, Alex Gaffikin, Terry Lay, John Galsworthy, John Bond, Chris Brading, Friar Simon Donnelly, Ellie Stoneley, Ken Lax, John Horn & John Killingbeck.

2. Minutes of the 41st AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM were published in BAS Club Magazine No 74 and placed on the web site in December 2016. The meeting was requested by the Chairman to agree them as a true record. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by a unanimous show of hands.

The minutes were duly signed by Chairman and Secretary accordingly.

3. Matters arising minutes 41st AGM

a. Cost of the Club website:

A breakdown of the set up cost of £3068.00p was given by Keith Gainey who explained that the cost was attributed to the purchase and design of the site and the difficult transfer of the website from BAS servers.

There were ongoing costs of £2200.00p which accounts for the training of 4 members in the system so that they can administer the site and necessary upgrades since inception. The future costs will be circa £1000 per annum which includes for maintenance and hosting.

The Chairman stated that the costs were value for money

b. The widow of Henry Worsley.

The Chairman responded thus:

Stuart Lawrence requested the Committee to consider support to Henry Worsleys widow. A letter of condolence had been sent by the Committee. The Committee discussed the request at the September 2016 meeting. We had been informed that several other agencies had already offered support and it was unlikely BAS Club would be called upon for support of any nature. The Committee voted to take no further action. It was advised that if any Club member knows differently of circumstances and need for support then they should contact the Club Secretary accordingly.

NOTE

BAS Club News

4. Chairman's Report

I think that you will agree with me that this is an excellent venue. I would, on behalf of the BASC, thank Alec Hurley for taking this on and giving us a weekend to remember.

I would also like to thank today's tour organizers for their splendid efforts.

I would like to thank all the officers and members of the BAS Club Committee for their continuing and enthusiastic contributions. They have continued to act in the Club's interest, that is, on your behalf, unstintingly.

I would also like to mention our President, Barry Heywood, who has been a friend to the Club, a steady rock and a wise advisor.

The Club remains in good health and is fulfilling its objectives.

We have strived to communicate with the membership more effectively via the Magazine (thanks Keith) and via the web.

A lot of attention has been focussed on improving the use of, and the access to, the BASC website, but that has cost implications which will be discussed later in the Agenda.

It is not just cost that is a factor but the number of personnel who are required to run a first-class website.

Basically, we need more operatives. I would like to make a plea to those of you who are computer-literate, to come forward and help.

There is no reason why it cannot be done sitting in your armchair at home.

Please talk to any of the Committee members here today. We need you and we can train you!

You will recall that Dick Laws was our immediate Past President. It was with some surprise that many Antarctic paintings were discovered a short time after his death. They were of excellent quality and indeed demonstrated a hidden talent. The Club gave support to the Dick Laws Painting exhibition, which was held at the Scott Polar Research Institute earlier this year. The exhibition was a great success, and was elegantly organised by Bob Burton, John Croxall and Bruce Pearson, to whom we owe a debt for bringing it to public notice.

The Club has maintained good relationships with BAS, and Professor Dame Jane Francis has been particularly helpful.

The Club has also maintained cordial relationships with the FCO. We continue to apply each year for help with the Fuchs Medal Award, the Laws Prize and the BASC Benevolent Fund.

With regard to BAS, remodelling of the buildings has led to the Book of Remembrance being resited in the Library adjacent to the front entrance. I hope that you all will be able to see this when we visit BAS HQ during the AGM weekend in Cambridge in 2018.

You will also be able to see the Memorial Orchard at that time, with its Polar sundial and Fid-made seats etc.

That concludes my report.

5. Secretary's Report

Mr President, Mr Chairman, Fellow Committee Members and Members, here follows the BAS Club Secretary's report for the period 2016- 2017

As usual it has been an interesting and busy year as Secretary of your Club. Your Committee met officially five times during this period with the four general meetings hosted at BAS HQ.

For the general meetings we were able to utilise Skype conferencing and hosted up to three Committee members remotely with varying degrees of success. Skype has proved a useful tool and as a result travel expenditure to the Club is reduced

It is intended that the number of general meetings held throughout the year going forward will be reduced to three again saving considerable expenditure by the Club

I wish to advise the meeting that a considerable amount of work is carried out by Committee members outside of the meetings to the benefit of Club members. The extensive work of our illustrious Benevolent Manager and works regarding the Memorial Orchard are but two of many examples.

BAS Club News

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Club Committee and members to extend our thanks to the BAS Director and BAS management for their continued support to the Club allowing us to utilise the IT facility and meeting rooms.

As the Club Secretary I am the initial respondent to the enquiries sent via the web site. I have been kept busy with the steady flow of enquiry emails and all are dealt with accordingly.

Ongoing administration has included involvement updating the Club Constitution, which will be presented for ratification here today, commencement on revising the Memorandum of Understanding with BAS and initialising the base plan for providing a Committee Management.

I have continued to administer the Club sales. Interest in these items remains strong. May I remind you that all BAS purchases benefit the Club and The Benevolent Fund.

I have continued to help with managing of the disposal of bequeathed articles such as books and memorabilia. All proceeds go to the Benevolent Fund. During the past year Allan Wearden as Benevolent Manager has taken on a larger role with this aspect.

As will be seen in the Agenda and Business Notice I intend to stand for a further term as Secretary of the Club.

That concludes the Secretary's report.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts

I am honoured to present to the AGM of this special club once again. Some of you may remember that I was the Membership Secretary for a few years until 2015. This however has been my first year as Treasurer and I would like to thank my predecessor, Dick Harbour, for continuing to hold the reins for a couple of months after my appointment last June to assist with the difficult handover period between then and last September.

The first few months were difficult as I wrestled with banking and anti-money laundering regulations to lodge new signatories and register the club for Online banking. However, this facility has helped considerably with managing our financial affairs, not just regarding speed of payment but in aiding the "real time" checking of the many hundreds of members' subscriptions which come in at the beginning of January each year. Speaking of subscriptions, I am grateful to those many members who pay via Standing Order and hope that those who pay by cheque will switch to a method which saves them remembering that the subs are due, and saves time and money in posting/receiving and banking cheques. I have undertaken a major exercise in transferring the subscription records onto a comprehensive Member's Database which is maintained by the Membership Secretary. Due to the wonders of an online facility called "Dropbox", both the MemSec and I are now able to share this d'base and since that post holder, Alex Gaffikin, lives in Australia, it is not often that we are both trying to access the d'base simultaneously!

This exercise revealed that many members were not paying the correct subscription or indeed not paying anything at all! I have had a blitz to try to rake in the arrears (or make refunds in a few cases)! This has been hugely time-consuming and further demonstrates the all-round benefits of setting up a regular subscription payment, such as a standing order. The club's PayPal transaction facility is proving increasingly popular with overseas (and some UK) members, most of whom do not have UK banking facilities. The club has been lenient in the past on overdue payments, often when several years' subscriptions have been owing but our financial position suffers as a result. As of January 2018, failure to pay the club subscription on time will result in membership not being renewed, unless there are circumstances of which I am aware.

You may have noticed a few changes in the way the accounts have been prepared for 2016? In discussion with club member Adrian Apps, who kindly agreed to be our "Independent Examiner" (as distinct from Auditor), it was agreed that the Income and Expenditure methodology, rather than the previously adopted "Receipts and Payments" format, would enable us to more easily monitor and compare the activity and position of the club on a year to year basis. This has revealed that the club is solvent i.e. could pay its debts, although we do need to be careful in one or two areas. It is clearly important that we collect subscriptions assiduously to cover particularly the cost of printing and postage of the club magazine. This is by far the biggest outlay and rightly so, since it is the major benefit of club membership. The committee's expenses (mainly travel to meetings) is another area that requires monitoring and the proposal to reduce the frequency of the meetings to 4 per annum (from 5) will help in this regard. It is to be noted that these expenses are not at all extravagant and some members do not claim them at all, either from choice or because they "attend" meetings via Skype, rather than in person.

BAS Club News

I would like to bring members' attentions to the fact that as well as the main activities of the club, it also manages subsidiary funds to a greater or lesser extent, viz. the Benevolent Fund, the Law's Prize, the Fuchs Medal, the Memorial Orchard and the Oral Heritage Project. Differing rules and practices apply to each of these and in the event of a winding-up of the club, differing stipulations as to the destinations of these funds apply. I have rationalised the accounts for a couple of these, Memorial Orchard and Oral Heritage by incorporating them in the main Income and Expenditure Accounts.

Lastly, and speaking as a Committee Member, rather than purely as Treasurer, may I encourage members to consider putting their name forward to join the committee. If not now, then sometime in the future. If it doesn't suit yourself then perhaps suggest someone else whom you think would be good. We have proposed a new constitution whereby members of the Committee MUST retire after a maximum of three terms, each of three years, on the committee. I pushed this against more pragmatic opposition that said we would fail to fill places and so cease to function. I consider nine years to be more than enough to hold such a post. It is important that there be a turnover of committee members in order to renew and refresh the club. It is not good enough just to assume that old so and so will carry on forever. The club will become moribund at best but complacent and slack at worst.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you tonight.

Note: The accounts were presented in the May Club magazine

Dog Holden

QFTF 1. It was requested to know what the sum in the current account was on January 1st 2016.

DH responded, £6475.00p. The questioner observed this was an increase on previous year.

7. Magazine Editor's Report

Many thanks to all contributors to the last year's magazines. The BAS Club Magazine continues to be entertaining

Note: There was applause and gratitude from the floor!

8. Membership Secretary's Report

Members' stats

2016 AGM we had 1006 members, as of 3rd June 2017 we have 1001. We have had 24 new or returning members and 19 members have died.

Treasurer Dog Holden has been doing a sterling job chasing members whose subscription fees had lapsed or who were paying the wrong amount. Just to re-iterate; The subscription for those opting solely to download the twice-yearly magazine from the club website is £10 p.a. for both UK or overseas members. The subscription for receiving the magazine in printed form and via the post plus having access to download is £15 p.a. if based in UK or £20 p.a. if overseas. Subscriptions are due on 1st January each year.

Members are, as always, encouraged to recruit new members to the Club! Please see our website or constitution for the latest criteria for membership.

Website

The 'New Members' page of the website <http://basclub.org/members/new-members/> was updated in April 2017.

Notifications of members who pass away are posted on the club website under the 'news/obituary' section. I also post notifications about notable Fids who aren't club members but who are well known to Club members.

Back in November 2016 we had some trouble with the 'Subscription' part of the website being 'off line' after the up-grade. One result of this was that new news items did not get sent out automatically to members, was up and working again in a few weeks. Old news items can't be resent but hopefully when members log in they will look at past news articles online.

Some members still have problems logging into the website. This is usually because they have changed their email address and haven't alerted me or, on rare occasions, because they were never put on the website database in the first place. If you change your email address please let me know. And if anyone is having difficulties accessing the website then get in touch with me.

BAS Club News

Databases

BAS are in the process of updating the 'database of winterers' which currently only goes up to 2011. They have compiled the data and we are waiting to hear when they have updated the online database https://secure.antarctica.ac.uk/about_bas/our_history/winterers/

Dog Holden and I amalgamated the membership database with subscription information spreadsheets which will make keeping track of membership status much more efficient. The database is saved on Dropbox which we can both access but which is secure.

Alex Gaffikin

9. Election of Committee Members and Officers

The Meeting was advised of the Officer vacancies and that the candidates in tenure were prepared to stand for a further 3 year period. There have been no further application to fill the portfolios

The AGM were asked to consider the following candidates:

a. Membership Secretary:

Candidate: Alexandra Gaffikin

Proposer: Fergus O'Gorman Seconder: Jim Turton

The Chairman asked the meeting to vote for Alex with a show of hands. The vote was affirmative and Alex will now continue in the role of Membership Secretary. It should be noted that Alex effects this role from Australia.

b. Secretary

Candidate: Tony Wincott

Proposer: Alec Hurley Seconder: Dave Burkitt

Keith Gainey asked the meeting to vote for Tony with a show of hands. The vote was affirmative and Tony will now continue in the role of Club Secretary

c. Benevolent Fund Manager

Candidate: Allan Wearden

Proposer: Phil Cotton Seconder: Dave Hill

The Chairman asked the meeting to vote for Allan with a show of hands. The vote was affirmative and Allan will now continue in the role of Benevolent Fund manager

d. Chairman.

Candidate: Terry Allen

Proposer: Dave Rowley Seconder: Paul Coslett

Keith Gainey asked the meeting to vote for Terry with a show of hands. The vote was affirmative and Terry will now continue in the role of Chairman.

In conclusion of the elections the Secretary reminded all present that should the proposed Constitution be ratified at this AGM then many of the current Committee would not be able to seek further tenure and new members would be required.

10. Constitution

The revised Constitution was made available for member's consideration in the December 2016 magazine and the May 2017 and placed on the web site. The Chairman advised that the revised document had been deliberated on for nearly two years to achieve the proposed content. The proposal also took in to account comments from some members prior to publishing the draft. The revised content is designed to protect the interest of Club members and ensure that there is no opportunity for a hostile takeover of the Club and its assets. Provision has been made for an increase in Committee members if required and also a reduction in the tenure allowed for Committee and Officers. As always the Committee is seeking to attract new member to serve on the Committee going forward.

The Chairman called for comments from the AGM members before seeking ratification of the document.

Point 1. Ref Section 4.1

There followed comments from Keith Holmes and several responses from the floor and Committee. The crux of Keith's comments was that we should avoid "creep" with regard to offering membership to those with purely Arctic experience as a reason for joining.

BAS Club News

The Chairman explained it had been included due to the revised scope of BAS's scientific involvement both with programs and ships. After much deliberation and input by the members it was determined that the Arctic element would be removed as a valid condition for Membership qualification.

This amendment was Proposed by Keith Holmes and Seconded by Fergus O'Gorman

The Chairman called upon the meeting to vote on the proposal by a show of hands. There was a majority in favour of the amendment to section 4.1.

Keith Gainey would amend the document accordingly

Point 2. Ref Section 2.2

The Chairman read out the relevant section.

Dog Holden advised that the section had been included to encompass those with affiliated interests such as the UKAHT. He also stipulated that the Committee deliberates over the worthiness of any non-true Fid application. After discussion it was determined that no alteration was necessary to Section 2.2

The Chairman called upon the meeting to ratify the amended BAS Club Constitution 2017.

Proposer: Phil Cotton Secunder John Blunn

The Chairman called for a show of hand for ratification. The result was a unanimous "for".

11. Heritage Elements

Two thousand and sixteen has been a relatively quiet year in relation to news of Antarctic Heritage projects.

The sad death en route to the Ross Ice Shelf of Henry Worsley on 24th January 2016 was remembered later in the year by the success of Spear 17, the Army Reserves Polar Expedition. Led by Lou Rudd, who had reached the South Pole with Henry Worsley in 2012, the six members of the unsupported expedition included three doctors and a paramedic. After leaving Hercules Inlet in November 2016, forty days and 730 miles later they reached the South Pole on Christmas Day 2016. The final 400 miles to the Ross Ice Shelf, reached on 21st January 2017, was undertaken to honour Henry Worsley's unsuccessful traverse of the Antarctic continent. The team had man-hauled 1130 miles in sixty six days and were the first British team to traverse Antarctica on foot and unsupported.

News of the closure of Halley V1 for the winter season after the organisation and completion of the move to a new inland area of the ice shelf was shown on a BBC Horizon programme this June. The decision to close the base was the finding of a new crack in the ice - the Halloween crack which would also cut the base off from the low ice shelf at N9, the preferred site of base relief in recent years.

Historic reports on the variety of material and building designs for Antarctic stations showed that the Halley V1's design had similar concepts to that of other Antarctic bases, such as that for Spain. The USA base at McMurdo, a 1950's product, survives but with thoughts to modernise the old station with a more energy efficient version with accommodation for 850 people!

Links with South Georgia Museum, run by the South Georgia Heritage has been maintained with the island reputedly one of the top 'must see' places on Antarctic cruises possibly due to easier access for ships than some of the other heritage bases on the Peninsula. The South Georgia Museum is located in the villa at Grytviken, formerly the whaling station manager's house. The museum was established in 1991 as a whaling museum, but its scope now embraces all the main areas of island's history, including most aspects of South Georgia's human heritage and natural history. The Historic Dockyard Museum at Stanley is expanding with new buildings to accommodate a Sea King SAR helicopter, F4 Phantom II cockpit and sections of a large emigrant ship. This new building will also provide excellent research facilities and a safe storage space for the reserve and ongoing collections.

The Scott Polar Research Institute hosted an exhibition of artwork by Dick Laws, who was both a FID and Director of BAS. His artwork was applied to both his scientific biological research and as a recreation and illustrated both the wildlife and scenic aspects of Antarctica. The BAS Club supported the exhibition financially.

Now that the new polar ship has a name, the construction of the vessel, *Sir David Attenborough*, is proceeding apace at Cammell Laird's yard at Birkenhead. The ship is due to set sail in 2019. Tonne for tonne, it will provide the UK with the most advanced floating research fleet in the world, conducting vital research into the world's oceans and how we address climate change. Progress reports on the ship's building progress have appeared on the BAS Club's web pages.

BAS Club News

Again, my thanks to all who have provided links to the various projects on the BAS Club website and Facebook pages.

Report by John Fry. Heritage Portfolio

Keith Gainey added that the Boaty McBoatface ROV has now been launched!

QFTF 2. Keith Holmes raised the question to the Committee if they had given any consideration to the BAS aircraft fuselage Single engine Otter No 294?

The Chairman advised it had not been on any agenda. There followed a brief discussion and explanation on the fate of the aircraft from Keith Holmes. There is concern that the aircraft has fallen into the hands of undesirables and will be lost as a heritage item. The Chairman suggested an article be placed in the magazine. Keith Gainey requested a write up for the magazine. It should also be placed on to the web. **Action JF**

QFTF 3. Fergus O’Gorman suggested the Chairman write to the BAS Director regarding the aircraft. The Chairman declined and advised he would mention it directly instead!

QFTF 4. A point was raised regarding the content of the Heritage report being related to more contemporary than heritage elements. There was no specific response from the floor or Committee.

11.2 Memorial Orchard Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

The Chairman thanked member Dick Harbour for his many dedicated years of involvement with the Orchard and upkeep. Currently the Committee is looking to define the responsibilities of BAS Club and BAS regarding the maintenance of the various elements comprising the Orchard. The financial aspects recently are of concern regarding the outlay by BAS Club.

The Committee is working to produce a management Plan. Committee member John Fry is leading with this and is looking to involve Dick Harbour and Jo Rae who has been put forward by BAS. The Chairman conferred with the BAS Director who is furnishing the details as known and the other interested sectors of BAS. A lot has happened in the Orchard with BAS volunteers and others as well as the BAS grounds maintenance team. It is anticipated that the Plan will be formalised and in place before the Club AGM in Cambridge next year. **Action TA & JFry**

QFTF 5. Paul Coslett raised the point that a tree had been planted in the Orchard by BAS for a member of their staff recently deceased. This indicated that BAS staff are taking an interest in the Orchard.

11.3 Oral History Project

For the AGM oral history update [BAOHP] I had been given to understand that the upload of more interviews to the club website was imminent, but sadly it has not happened yet although I will keep pushing it forward and it will happen shortly! The transcribing continues slowly with summer being a slower period and we should be up to 70% shortly, and of course we are always open to new people coming on-board and if interested just let myself or Andy Smith know over this weekend? As I have said in the recent magazine all interviews are checked for any sensitive material, before going online. But if anyone needs to retract any sensitive statements please see me or contact BAS Archives.

Allan Wearden

12. Website and Social Media Report

Recently there had been a change of administration for the web and media. Bev Ager had accepted the co-opted role of web coordinator and Ellie Stoneley has stepped down from the role. Ellie continues to manage the Facebook role. Ellie was finding it difficult due to personal commitments to uphold the web role.

Keith Gainey is currently collating a list of items for suggested upgrades and additions to the web site.

We are looking for member’s input via the web site for further comment and suggestions. The annual cost of the web will be advised to members when the cost is determined.

Tony Wincott

Action TW

BAS Club News

QFTF 6. A question arose from a member regarding the security of the site in the light of recent incursions to web sites in general.

The response from the Committee was that the web site was as secure as it can be. Apart from email addresses no data regarding members was held on the site.

Keith Gainey went on to add that Bev Ager was familiar with the operating platform of the website which is Wordpress. The Committee had approached Bev to become a club member and was subsequently co-opted onto the Committee in the role of web coordinator. It is anticipated that Bev will be able to effect upgrades to the site content going forward and make it more cost effective for the Club.

13. Fuchs Medal Report for 2017

The 2017 Fuchs Medal was awarded to James Miller, who has been working in the HR department at High Cross for about twenty years. The Citation for the award was included in the May 2017 edition of the BAS Club Magazine. The medal was presented to him at High Cross on 21st June, at the same time as the BAS Long Service Awards were presented.

Paul Coslett Fuchs Medal Committee Secretary

QFTF 7. Dave Hill raised the point that the FM should be presented at the AGM/Dinner.

The Chairman responded that the Fuchs Medal Committee had discussed this aspect previously with Jane Francis. It had been determined that some winners may be South or indeed not Club members. The agreement was reached with BAS that a winner South or working for BAS then it would be presented at a BAS function. Should the winner be a Club member then it would be presented at a Club function.

Dave Hill stressed the point that presentations at Club functions have lessened over the years. The Chairman suggested that the Club look to promote suggested applicants among the membership. Paul Coslett advised a recent winner was a St Helenian resident who did not come to the UK. The Chairman summed up that the membership needs to look to promote applicants from within their ranks

14 Benevolent Fund

AGM 2017 Benevolent Fund report:

As usual if you know of any fellow Fids in any kind of difficulties please let me know either over the weekend or via email / phone and I will endeavour to help. If it were a case of visiting somebody a great distance from me, I would try and recruit help from another club members in their area. This new initiative has worked well recently with a member receiving two visitors and a phone call from Australia! The actual benevolent fund is in a very healthy state at the moment, but as always it is good to keep it topped up and there is a silent auction running over the weekend to raise more funds. Please have a browse over the items offered on our table and put in a bid! And of course any items that you wish to donate for future auction are always welcome?

Allan Wearden Benevolent Fund Manager

QFTF 8. Graham Chambers advised the meeting that his book, "Many are cold but few are frozen", is available for purchase and that the profits from sales will be donated to the Benevolent Fund.

PMN. The sale of items at the AGM Dinner realised £617.00p for Benevolent Funds. Well done Allan Wearden for organising.

15. Future AGM & Dinner Venues

The meeting was advised of the following:-

2018 Cambridge. Note 14th July. Dick Harbour advised that Churchill College was booked for the event and that we have been invited to attend an open afternoon at BAS by the Director.

2019 Plas y Brenin. The venue has been booked. Tony Wincott and Brian Jones organising.

2020 Dundee. Julian Paren organising. No details as yet available.

2021 Lancashire. Allan Wearden organising Clitheroe. Venue Booked.

The Chairman requested organisers to come forward for future venues.

BAS Club News

QFTF 9. Fergus O’Gorman made the observation that most attendees of the AGM and Dinner were of the older fraternity. He suggested that the Committee gave consideration to age profiles and location and endeavour to have public transport access.

16. Club Assets

The remaining paintings will now be offered to the general public and non-Club members as well as Club members. This was agreed at the 2015 AGM. Hopefully there will be as much success with this section of the sale. The two paintings previously thought sold are offered at the AGM tonight until silent bid. **Action TW**

17. AoB

a. Laws Exhibition

Bob Burton gave a brief resume of the recent Exhibition of Dick Laws paintings at SPRI. He summed up as follows:

Dick’s successful career in science and eventual Director of BAS. John Croxall had the idea of the exhibition. BAS Club did provide some financial support for the event. He along with John and SPRI put on the event. BAS provided facility to copy the paintings. It was a great success. Bob asked that members take a copy of the excellent surplus exhibition programmes. The profit realised by the event was to be shared equally between the Laws Prize and SPRI. However SPRI have declined their share and asked that it be donated the Laws Prize also

b. British Antarctic Monument Trust

Rod Rhys Jones presented a brief update of the Trust, the state of the Stanley monument SPRI monument refurb. There was a visit today to the Pangolin Foundry which made the Stanley monument. Corrosion to the Southern Monument is evident and it will be replaced later this year. The BAMT film of the Southern cruise and Stanley monument dedication was recently premiered and attended by 250. DVDs are available from Brian Dorsett-Bailey. The Terra Nova painting has been put up for resale by the owner at the Dinner today.

Report to BAS Club AGM 24 JUNE 2017

The British Antarctic Monument Trust is a charity set up to celebrate the achievements of the men and women whose scientific exploration in the British Antarctic Territory has led to a new understanding of our planet, and to honour those amongst them who did not return.

South 2015 film premiere

The film made by the Trust *South 2015: an Antarctic Voyage to Remember* was premiered at the Royal Geographical Society, on Wednesday 14 June 2017 to an audience of around 250 including 33 family members of those that died and representatives of Antarctic institutions including Dame Jane Francis, Director of BAS, Jane Rumble, Director of Polar Regions, FCO, Professor Julian Dowdeswell, Director of Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge University, Camilla Nichol, Director UK Antarctic Heritage Trust and Rt Rev Nigel Stock, Bishop of the Falkland Islands. The film follows the work of the Trust in creating the Antarctic Memorial in the crypt of St Paul’s Cathedral with interviews with the designer and stone mason. Julian Dowdeswell talks eloquently about why he felt it was so fitting that the Institute should provide a site for the Northern part of the Antarctic Monument. Oliver Barratt, sculptor explains the meaning behind creating the Antarctic monument in two parts. But the greater part of the film is taken up with the voyage of the *mv Ushuaia* to the Falkland Islands for the dedication of the Southern Monument and to the Peninsula where those Britons “who lost their lives in Antarctica in pursuit of science to benefit us all” lived and worked. Each of those who died are remembered in the film.

Trust Ambassador Felicity Aston, MBE who now lives in Iceland was expecting a baby and was unable to travel, so recorded a video of her introduction and welcome which was projected to loud applause. We have since heard she gave birth that day to a “little boy explorer” weighing in at 8.8lbs. Trust Ambassador John Killingbeck spoke movingly of the value of the Trust’s work.

The maker of the film Graham Morris, cousin of Jeremy Bailey who died from Halley Bay in 1965, travelled from New Zealand for the occasion and was loudly applauded for his work.

Copies of the DVD of the film have been given as a gift to all family members. They are also available at the AGM price £15 from Sandra and Brian Dorsett-Bailey or afterwards by contacting Brian at briand_b@hotmail.co.uk

BAS Club News

Article in Royal Geographical Magazine

A three page article has been published in the June issue of the Royal Geographical Magazine to coincide with the Premiere of the film.

South 2015 Reunion Lunch

Fifty voyagers and guests including family members attended a long leisurely reunion lunch in the ball room at the historic Polish Club in Exhibition Road. It gave voyagers on the South 2015 voyage aboard *mv Ushuaia* an opportunity to meet up and catch up before the evening film premiere.

Southern part of the Antarctic Monument

Plans to replace the Southern Monument in Stanley are in hand. The Trust has sought advice from a senior metallurgist at international engineers Arup and have been working closely with the manufacturer Pangolin to make a new monument. The panels of the bronze base have already been manufactured and work is proceeding on the stainless steel needle. The monument is to be shipped by BAS. Fid Ian Bury will be arranging for its transportation, storage and erection.

Northern part of the Antarctic Monument

The oak sculpture at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge is also showing some signs of weathering and has been removed for cleaning. The steel base tended to collect water and is going to be strengthened before the monument is returned to its former position

Shackleton Exhibition

The Trust raised contributions from its supporters and made a significant donation to support the *Shackleton: Life and Leadership* exhibition in Chile at the Dreams Hotel, Punta Arenas organised by SPRI. It was part of the events to mark the Centenary of the rescue of the Elephant Island party by Captain Luis Pardo of the Chilean Navy aboard the *Yelcho* out of Punta Arenas. The exhibition was put on at the Scott Polar Research Institute earlier this year and was shown in the Falkland Island Museum, Stanley.

PMN.

A letter from Fr Simon Donnelly, Archdiocese of Johannesburg has been received by the Club:-

Dear BAS/FIDS, friends of the South,

I wish you a happy midwinter celebration, tonight, I believe. Our dad Gene Donnelly (56 & 57) always remembered midwinter in the South, and his former team-mates, and all of you, by extension, from our kitchen table in Claremont, Cape Town, in the 54 winters he lived after his two winters South. With much nostalgia for a South we knew only through our father's memories,

I wish very best wishes to all southern explorers and families.

Friar Simon Donnelly

There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 1848hrs

Date of next AGM Meeting: July 14th 2018 Venue: Churchill College. Cambridge

Time: 1730hrs

Business Notice of BAS Club 2018 AGM procedures

In accordance with the Club Constitution the BAS Club Committee advises the Membership of the following information and procedures:-

1. The BAS Club 2018 AGM will take place on Saturday July 14th. It is later this year due to availability of the venue
2. Venue of meeting will be Churchill College, Cambridge
3. Time of meeting will be 1730 hrs
4. The minutes of the 2017 AGM are available on the Club web site for perusal and published in the December 2017 magazine
5. The Financial Accounts of the preceding year will be made available on the Club web site and in the Club magazine if available Otherwise paper copies will be provided to those attending the AGM
6. Nominations of Committee members:

BAS Club News

The following will retire at the 2018 AGM in accordance with the Club Constitution:-

John Fry	Heritage and Memorial Orchard Portfolio
John Blunn	Committee Member
Paul Coslett	Fuchs Medal Secretary
Ellie Stoneley	Media Co-ordinator

The retiring Committee members have indicated they are willing to stand for a further term and their portfolios are available on the Club web site for consideration

However the positions are open to other candidates to put themselves forward for consideration should they so wish. Applications are to be in writing (or email) to the Secretary with a proposer and seconder eight (8) weeks before the AGM date will be accepted.

The relevant portfolios are available on the Club web site.

7. The list of Committee members and Officers and their due retirement dates are shown on the inside cover of each magazine
8. Please be advised that the AGM is intended for Club Members only to attend.
9. The proceedings at the AGM will be audio recorded to facilitate correct reporting of events and reports.

Members are advised that communication systems are now in place for Committee business to be conducted via telephone conferencing or Skype video conferencing wherever practical. This facility enables any member who wishes to join the Committee to attend meetings wherever they are based. The Committee wishes to encourage a younger fraternity to become involved with running the Club to ensure it progresses and endures.

Note 1: Members are reminded of the Committees wishes to effect paperless AGM's and should make their own arrangements for copies of relevant documents they may wish to refer to. This will include the agenda.

Note 2: The Chairman and Committee wish to advise the membership that the AGM is a very important meeting for conducting Club business. Accordingly it should be recognised that background noise and conversations by non -attendees of the meeting cause unnecessary disruption especially as the meeting is now recorded for accuracy. AGM attendees are requested to respect their Committee and the proceedings by conducting themselves in an appropriate manner.

Your prompt attendance at the meeting would be much appreciated!

Tony Wincott
BAS Club Secretary
October 2017

BAS CLUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2017/2018

2017	7 September	Committee Meeting I	Cambridge
2018	22 March	Committee Meeting II	Cambridge
2018	14 July	AGM & Reunion Dinner – Churchill College	Cambridge
2018	7 September	Committee Meeting I	Cambridge

BENEVOLENT FUND from Allan Wearden

The fund goes from strength to strength with £617 being raised at the club AGM from various auctions. Many thanks for the contributions of items and those that bought items - someone's junk is another's treasure! We also found the late Mike Skidmore had left £2891 to the fund in his will.

BAS Club News

At the MBR this year, the various auctions were for the Mike Butler fund. Mike, who sadly passed away in October, had been cook at Rothera 89/91 and had to be taken out early due to medical problems. As Mike was not a BAS club member, The Club could not support a grant to help his long term partner, as it was against the Club constitution to support non-club members, However, all the committee thought it a worthy cause. I hope this will be discussed at the next committee meeting to see if it is possible to amend the constitution so as to cover special situations in the future.

The late Steve Norris very kindly left a great many books and memorabilia to the Benevolent Fund. These will appear to be auctioned off at next year's AGM in Cambridge. They are a very good selection of Antarctic books, although nothing is particularly rare, and I am prepared to accept bids on these up till May next year. Due to amount of titles I am not putting the list in the magazine, but will let anybody that is interested know what the list contains -- please email me at allan.wearden@btinternet.com or phone 01254 247541 for further information. Any buyer will be liable for carriage, unless attending the AGM to pick up in person.

As per usual if you know of anybody who would be benefit from any kind of help from the Benevolent Fund please get in touch at the above numbers, and this includes possible assistance to attend a future reunion.

Memorial Orchard at BAS Cambridge – Update

By John Fry

*Memorial stone and orchard view, 29 August 2017
(photo John Fry)*

The fruit harvest this year was very good with the apples picked by BAS employees both for home consumption and apple crumble sold in the BAS restaurant but any BAS club member is also able to pick fruit from the trees. We are also trying to introduce some flowers into the orchard and have started by planting daffodil bulbs around the bases of some of the trees and this planting will be extended if it is successful.



*Planting daffodils, Tony Wincott and Dave Sayward, 2 November 2017
(photo John Fry)*

Much of long term work in the orchard has been undertaken by Dick Harbour on a voluntary basis assisted by Dave Sayward. Dick Harbour is to be applauded for his efforts, from the start, with regard to maintaining the trees, the sundial and the benches, on a voluntary basis. He now finds that he is not able to continue, and, furthermore, Dave Sayward, who has been assisting him, is retiring.

The Club needs help "on the ground" with regard to fulfilling the commitments associated with the Orchard, but that has to be achieved within a strict budget.

BAS Club News

Since both these people wish to retire, we are asking for any BAS club members who live in the Cambridge area to assist with both the upkeep of the area around the trees and the pruning of the fruit trees

Please contact me if you feel that you are able to assist with the orchard

John Fry

BAS Club committee member, heritage and orchard portfolio.

Tel: 01273 472340

[e-mail: ajfry99@hotmail.com](mailto:ajfry99@hotmail.com)

NEW MEMBERS

Since the last AGM the Club has accepted the following as BAS Club Members

2330	Mr	Stephen	Jesson	Biscoe and Bransfield 77 to 90 2nd cook/baker Chief Cook
2332	Ms	Caroline	Chant	My Father, Bob Chant, has now passed away; he was Chief Engineer on the Bransfield for a number of years
2333	Mr	Paul	Lewis	For over 20 years, as a contractor, I have been training and examining the BAS Radio Operators and Comms Managers. I provided assistance and advice on the layout of the present Comms Tower at Rothera. In January 2017 I spent time at Rothera carrying out an audit and writing a report on the Communications and Air Ground Radio Operation.
2254	Fr	Simon	Donnelly	reinstate
2334	Mr	Chris	Gateby	SG2 RRS Bransfield 1991-1992
2335	Ms	Jane	Cooper	I worked for UKAHT as deputy team leader on the 4 women team at Port Lockroy during the 2013/14 summer season. Since returning to the UK I've continued to volunteer for the Trust and to support Antarctic awareness and events including: Various national media interviews to promote the BBC Natural World documentary (Penguin Post Office)* Panel member at Bristol launch event for Penguin Post Office (alongside Doug Allen and Tudor Morgan)* Volunteer member of the staff team for UKAHT selection at Cambridge for both the 15/16 and 16/17 seasons (alongside Richard Hansen et al)* Volunteer for the 2017 family fun days supporting the Enduring Eye touring exhibition.
2336	Mr	Robin	Perry	Detaile and Horseshoe Island 59-60
2337	Mr	Russ	Juckes	Son of Lewis Juckes been to some reunions and keen to stay in touch in his own right.

BAS Club News

Stephen Jesson - RRS John Biscoe & RRS Bransfield Cook



I joined BAS in 1974 and left in 1990, in that time I served aboard the RRS Biscoe and the RRS Bransfield in various capacities within the catering department.

Since leaving BAS I have been working ashore in all kinds of weird and wonderful jobs, I have also been working at sea, the companies were:- British Telecom Marine, Blue Star, Geest Line, Stena Line, Pentland ferries and Vroom shipping again I have been employed in various capacities.

If this sounds like a CV my apologies, I have been busy at the minute with the Red Cross here on the Orkney Islands, my home for the past fourteen years.

(photo – at home Kirkwall, Orkneys 2017)

Paul Lewis

I am a long serving contractor for BAS, teaching and examining the Radio Operators who go South, so that they are all trained to a UK Civil Aviation Authority standard.

I also assisted with the design and original layout of the Ops Tower at Rothera and have helped out with other advice wherever able.

My main job is Air Traffic Control at Stansted Airport though I also find time to do the odd day at Duxford where I occasionally see BAS aircraft and where I have controlled at air-shows for the last 29 years!



Crevasses could appear without warning

And sometimes crevasses occurred where none were expected



BAS Club News

REPORT ON THE 42nd BAS CLUB AGM AND REUNION --- 24th June 2017

Eastwood Park, Gloucestershire

By Alec Hurley

The Eastwood Park Estate near Bristol proved to be a successful venue for the 42nd BAS club reunion. Many Fids and their partners made it into a long weekend, taking advantage of the reasonable priced accommodation (for Gloucestershire) and the exclusive access, including veranda, lounge, event rooms and gardens offered by the hotel.

With many of you arriving on the Friday evening (over 50) the weekend was off to a lively start with full advantage being taken of the facilities. The 'Antarctic Voyage to Remember' film was shown in the main banqueting room, alongside meeting of old friends in the lounge bar or over a leisurely buffet meal in the dining room.

By 7:00pm Allan Weardon had the benevolent fund-raising jumble sale in full swing, offering great Antarctic artefacts and paintings donated by Fids and their families for a great cause.

Saturday morning brought one of the best days of the summer and delegates were breakfasting early and ready to take advantage of the day time activities arranged.

There were 18 of the crowd boarded a coach which having dropped a party at the WWT Slimbridge, headed for Pangolin foundry in the picturesque Stroud Valley.



Pangolin Editions (one of Europe's leading bronze foundries) have renovated the Antarctic Southern Monument and their team gave an in-depth description of the monument renovations and tour of the facilities. We must gratefully thank Rod and Sandi Rhys Jones for organising this visit. Everyone one who went found it very interesting and enjoyed it immensely.



The coach then travelled on to Cheltenham for lunch and the Wilson Museum, where we were able to see a new interesting display of Edward Wilson's personal effects, drawings and painting not seen before and loaned to the Museum by his family. We returned to Eastwood park via Slimbridge ready for the AGM.

There were 12 of the crowd who braved Jim's walk along the Severn bank between Oldbury and Littleton, plus a few extra tourists who joined for the lunch and the Cider Club 'lifesaver' tour. Thanks to Jim Turton for arranging this as a great day was had by all with some only just making back in time for the AGM late afternoon.

The AGM took place in the Berkeley Conference room at Eastwood Park at 17:30. The usual lively affair with good number of important topics being discussed. The meeting was admirably chaired by Terry Allen and the main takeaways from this meeting was, whilst the club still had a strong membership, there is need for the future to encourage more of the younger generation to join the club and attend the reunions.

BAS Club News

There were 94 at the reunion dinner, preceded by drinks on the hotel veranda. We were lucky to have a warm and fine early evening and with the great views of the Gloucestershire countryside put all of us into a relax mood to enjoy a hearty dinner.



Our President Barry Heywood gave an informative and entertaining update on Antarctic, science, affairs and future developments at BAS. Thanks to all of you who sent emails and letters of thanks and from all your feedback received most if not all attendees enjoyed the weekend.

I would like to thank the following members for their support contribution to the event organisations and content of the report.

Carys Torres – Organising committee and table plan

Patsy Hurley – Organising committee and Boaty Mc Boatface table decorations

Ailie Turton – Organising committee

Jim Turton – For organising walk and support in arranging the event.

Dog Holden – For support with all things financial

Sandi Rhys Jones – Photographs at Pangolin Editions

Alan Cheshire – Photographs from the Dinner

President's address at the BAS Club Annual Dinner 2017

I remember how outraged BAS Club members were at the 2012 AGM when it was revealed that the Natural Environment Research Council was attempting to merge the British Antarctic Survey and the National Oceanographic Centre to form a NERC Centre for Marine and Polar Research. What NERC did not anticipate was the strong reaction of the BAS Club members who wrote to the relevant Ministers of State and to their representatives in the House of Commons to draw attention to the excellence of and to the value of the research that BAS was actually doing. This engendered a keen interest in BAS both in the Commons and Lords, which has given rise to a major rise in funding. The figures are eye-watering to those of us that served under Vivian Fuchs, Dick Laws and David Drewry.

- £200 million will be the cost of the RRS Sir David Attenborough. -- This new vessel is longer and has a greater draft than the current BAS vessels so £15 million will be spent on building a larger wharf around the existing one at Rothera
- £26 million was the cost of the Halley VI station and a similar sum has been spent relocating it 23km inland of its original site
- £3.4 million has been spent extending and refurbishing BAS Cambridge Headquarters.
- Then in January 2017, it was announced that the British Antarctic Survey will receive another £100million to modernise the facilities and buildings at Rothera, Signy, Bird Island and at King Edward Point.

BAS Club News

- In addition to this, the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, Jo Johnson announced at the keel-laying ceremony for RRS Sir David Attenborough that the Government are investing £1 million in a Polar Explorer Programme. The aim of the programme is to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and explorers. This will be done by engaging young people in schools across the country in the construction progress of the new ship.

Over the first 2 weeks of December, modem communications enabled 500 pupils from 12 different schools to question scientists and support staff about research, support and day to day living at Rothera Research Station. The ages of the pupils ranged from 8 to 20, and many of the teachers got involved too. The response was very good and one group of 8 year-olds were more excited about the phone call to Antarctica than they were about Christmas. *Eat your heart out Santa!*

Last year I mentioned the excellent film that the Horizon Program made about Peter Gibbs' s return visit to Halley Bay. The program highlighted the need to move the Station. This summer season they returned to Halley to film the actual move. I hope you all saw it for it really did depict the tremendous achievement the move was. From the meticulous grooming of the 23 km 'road way' to the very careful repositioning of each module, especially the 200 plus tons of 'Big Red' it made gripping viewing. Then sadly, the program ended with the news that the station personnel were to be evacuated and the station winterised and closed down over winter because of the uncertainties over a new crack that has appeared in the Brunt Iceshelf. Named the 'Halloween Crack', it is not one single crack but a series of finger-like fractures to the north of the relocated station. The largest crack became active in 2013 and is spreading at 1.7km per year.

On a brighter but not lighter note, some Halley research also made news during the year. For the first time the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere above the station were measured as 400 ppm, which is way above the 280 ppm of pre-industrial levels. This level of CO₂ measured at Halley is indicative of world-wide levels ... and it is still rising. The last time CO₂ was at this level in the Earth's atmosphere was about 3 million years ago, in the Pliocene - and global temperatures were 2 to 3 degrees centigrade higher than they are today! The Arctic was more than 10 degree centigrade higher, was much wetter and covered in forests.

Evidence from the Antarctic suggests that the Ross Ice Shelf did not survive. Some climate models suggest that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet disappeared entirely. Global sea levels were thought to be 25 metres higher than present levels.

The rate at which the level of CO₂ is rising today is much faster than it was during the Pliocene! !! *I wonder if Donald Trump is planning to copy King Canut when the sea laps at the White House.*

Although the oceanographic capabilities of the RRS John Biscoe were very limited compared to those of RRS James Clark Ross, the BAS Offshore Program did make a significant contribution to the international BIOMASS program the Biological Investigation of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks. BIOMASS led to the formation of CCAMLR, (the Commission for the Conservation Of Marine Living Resources), whose mission is to provide scientific evidence and guidance to Governments and Policy makers.

It was recently announced that a large portion of the Ross Sea region has been designated a Marine Protected Area, keeping it safe from fishing and other human activities. Furthermore at the recent CCAMLR meeting agreement was reached to protect newly exposed areas of ocean that are being revealed under collapsing and retreating ice shelves.

BAS has and continues to contribute significantly to the science that helps to ensure that these important ecosystems are protected from exploitation.

BAS is currently leading a new NERC 5-year , multi research centre program which will measure, understand and predict the circulation of the Southern Ocean and its influence on Global Climate. The Southern Ocean is unique in that it is where new waters are formed that sink down into the depths and old waters upwell from those depths to the surface. Consequently it is a major site for the drawdown of anthropogenic carbon and heat from the Atmosphere ... hence its strong influence on global climate.

BAS will be working in collaboration with the National Oceanography Centre, the British Geological Survey, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, the Centre for Polar Observation and Modelling, the University of St Andrews and the Meteorological Office. There will also be numerous international players. RRS James Clark

BAS Club News

Ross, RRS Sir David Attenborough and RRS Discovery will be involved as well as autonomous surface and underwater vehicles.

The program has the acronym ORCHESTRA, which is an abbreviation of Ocean Regulation of Climate by Heat and Carbon Sequestration and Transports. Orchestra is closely linked with another NERC program RoSES (Role of the Southern Ocean in the Earth System), which is attempting to understand the biogeochemical processes involved in the Southern Ocean carbon sink.

Autonomous underwater vehicles play a major role in oceanographic studies today. These instruments profile temperature and salinity over the top 2000 metres of ocean every 10 days. The latest to be deployed also measure a suite of biogeochemical parameters and some profile over 6000 meters of to the sea bed. Almost 4000 such instruments give almost global coverage. This year round and widely distributed coverage has transformed our knowledge of the top 2000 meters of ocean.

During the past year BAS has continued to invest in Unmanned Aerial Vehicles as well. The latest models have a range of over 1000 km, have an endurance of 14 hours and can carry a payload of 15 kg. These vehicles are only operated from Rothera and Halley and by staff who have attended a very intensive 4 - week training course.

In future AGMs I hope that I will be reporting on the programs on which they have been deployed.

The refurbishment of the BAS Cambridge Headquarters has included the construction of a new 5,400 sq ft two-story extension. The extension includes a 150 seater conference room, two 40 seater seminar rooms, four 8 seater meeting rooms and an open plan office with 32 desk spaces. The extension is called the Aurora Cambridge Innovation centre. Its facilities will be available for hire to external users who have interests in common with BAS in climate change, stewardship of the environment and developing technologies for use in challenging environments. It is hoped to encourage greater external collaboration with industry, policy makers, non-governmental bodies and academia. I hope to reveal more in future.

The cream that has completed the very rich cake formed from the extra funding that has become available to BAS must be the news that the British Antarctic Survey Director, Professor Jane Francis, has been appointed Dame Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. I am sure that you will all wish to join the BAS Club committee in its sending of heartfelt congratulations to Dame Jane, *Barry Heywood*

43rd BAS CLUB AGM AND REUNION

14th July 2018

Cambridge

By *Ellen Bazeley-White and Dick Harbour*

From the experience of trying to organise the Cambridge Reunion 2018 it may be the last Reunion to be based at Cambridge. Over the years nobody has come forward from the Cambridge area and offered to organise these Reunions, so the work has been left to a few Committee members. Cambridge is one of the most popular tourist locations in the UK necessitating very earlier commitment from the Club to secure expensive accommodation so that it getting more difficult each year to keep costs down to a reasonable level. Therefore this Reunion could be a unique opportunity to see the significant changes that have taken place at BAS since the last BAS Club Cambridge Reunion in 2012 and discover the new sciences that are now being studied in the Antarctic.

A whole day of activities has been planned for Saturday 14th July so make the most of it by visiting for the weekend and staying at Churchill College where the AGM and evening dinner will be held.

Provisional Timetable

- 10:00am-11:30am Visit to Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) /Polar Museum, Lensfield Road, Cambridge
- 1:00pm-4:30pm Visit to the British Antarctic Survey, High Cross, Madingley Road, Cambridge
- 5:30pm AGM at Churchill College (Jock Colville Hall), Storey's Way, Cambridge
- 7pm for 7:30pm – Reunion Dinner at Churchill College Dining Room

BAS Club News

Churchill College



The College Campus is situated on a green site with modern en-suite accommodation (including an English breakfast) that is available on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th, (booking-in commencing at 1400hrs). However, this is limited so early booking is highly recommended, especially given the convenience of the location. The College has a dining hall offering canteen meals on Friday evening and Saturday lunchtime, the Jock Colville Hall will be

available during Saturday for guests to meet and chat, also a snack area to mingle. There is ample parking and the College is located less than a mile from BAS and two miles from the Scott Polar Research Institute.

Your attention is drawn to the possibility that those staying Friday night or arriving early Saturday morning in Cambridge would be able to spend a morning at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), Lensfield Road , Cambridge. At the entrance of the Institute is where the Husky Dog Statue now resides, also outside is the UK portion of the Antarctic Monument. There is an interesting Polar Museum inside the Institute.

The museum has been completely refurbished and would like to welcome BAS Club members on Saturday morning 10:00 am to 11:30am (the museum will be closed on Sunday). Please indicate your interest on the booking form. The Scott Polar Research Institute needs to have some idea of numbers to provide staff to act as guides.

As parking is limited near the museum, it will depend on the number of those interested whether some form of transport can be organised that is both available and at a reasonable cost.

Lunchtime Saturday 14th July

Churchill College has a canteen style lunch available to guests and non-guests. It will be again helpful to the College catering staff if you would please indicate on the booking form if you intend to purchase lunch.

Alternatively bring a picnic or sandwiches to enjoy in the Memorial Orchard at BAS, or if wet in the Icebreaker restaurant in BAS Building. There are now NO catering facilities at BAS at the weekend.

British Antarctic Survey

Director Jane Francis hopes (depending on the date of the next Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting) to present a keynote talk on the work of BAS.

Many staff have already volunteered to give up their Saturday afternoon to show us around and tell us about their work. Proceedings will start in the new Aurora Cambridge innovation space recently completed at BAS. There should be a shop enabling members to buy BAS branded merchandise and old maps no longer needed in the archived collection will be available for free/small donation.

The number of visitors to BAS will be limited and must be pre-booked, please return your booking form asap. The visit will include a tour of the building so please indicate if you will need to move more slowly or use the lift. If you wish to be in a tour group with friends please indicate this and we will try to accommodate you.



BAS Club News

There is plenty of parking at BAS in the staff car park, please leave the limited number of spaces near the main entrance for those with limited mobility. --- Please note there is no food/drink available on site during the visit.

AGM 5.30pm

This will be held in the Jock Colville Hall at Churchill College, and is only open to members. During the Meeting their guests will be able to enjoy the pleasant surroundings of the campus.

Reunion Dinner 7.00pm for 7.30pm - Three Course meal will be held in Churchill College Dining Hall £49 per person



Starters

- Chicken & Ham Terrine, pickled Mushrooms & Tarragon Mayo
- Slices of Dill Cured Salmon, Lemon Puree & Rosemary Crumb
- Vegetarian Option - Tomato & Basil Press, with Aubergine Chutney & Mascarpone

Main

- Roast Duck Breast with Beetroot & Sweet Potato, Lavender jus, Garlic Puree
- Pan Fried Sea Bass, Wilted Lettuce, Herb Gnocchi & Confit Onions with Horseradish Emulsion
- Vegetarian Option - Sauté Wild Mushrooms, Poached Duck Egg, Herb Couscous & Parsley Oil

Desserts

- Passion Fruit & Dark Chocolate Cheese Cake with Fresh Orange Sorbet & Marinated Oranges, Orange Caramel
- Honey Infused Pavlova, Cherry Compote with Milk Chocolate & Kirsch Syrup

Further information, maps etc will be provided in the May magazine.

As places for all activities are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis, please return your booking forms as early as possible, this will also aid with planning the day.

If you would like a digital version of the booking form, please email us. Contacting us by email will also make it easier to send maps, links to websites etc as the weekend approaches.

We look forward to seeing you next year.

Enquiries welcome

Richard Harbour (richard.harbour@talk21.com) 01462 894153

Ellen Bazeley-White (e.bazeley-white@hotmail.co.uk)

BAS Club News

BASE H-SIGNY REUNION, September 2018

By Cynan Ellis Evans



The FIDS/BAS Base on Signy Island has now been in existence for over 70 years. Originally the meteorological station Base H, and later the Signy research station, the site was occupied year-round from 1947 until 1996 before being converted from over-wintering to what is now Britain's sole Antarctic summer-only research station.

There have been several Base H/Signy reunions

over
the
years
but

the most recent (the 60th anniversary) event was held in Cambridge back in 2007. None of us are getting any younger, and there has been much talk about another get-together. A meeting for the 70th anniversary was not practicable for us but a reunion event marking 71 years of Signy is now being arranged over the weekend of **Sept 7-9, 2018** (Sorry to those also attending the BASC AGM in July!).



It will be held at Fitzwilliam College (on the west side of Cambridge) which can provide a range of comfortable accommodation, plenty of parking, meeting rooms, dining facilities and a bar! It is one of the more modern colleges, set in beautiful gardens and located outside the busy City centre which is nevertheless easily accessible.



The Programme - The weekend will broadly follow the successful format of previous Signy reunions with people arriving on Friday afternoon/evening, a full day of activities on Saturday (including talks, films, the

Signy Exhibition and a 3 course Reunion dinner) and a more relaxed Sunday morning to allow further viewing of the exhibitions, catching up with other Signy Fids and perhaps taking in some Cambridge attractions. Fitzwilliam can accommodate those wishing to extend their stay before or after the weekend.

The BAS Archives team have kindly offered to work with Bill Block who is developing a Reunion exhibition and sourcing Signy memorabilia. We are also looking to produce a new edition of the Signy Reunion Magazine, again edited by Bob Burton. We have a lot of ideas for the exhibition and magazine but we want as many Signy Fids as possible to be involved in developing both these activities so we are looking for your contributions (see below).

Practical Information - A website (<http://www.signy2018.uk>) will be online by the time you get this newsletter. Details of the Reunion and a wide range of other useful information will be available on the website so take a look. The site will host an on-line registration form for the event which allows us to take secure card payments but will also permit registration whilst paying by cheque or BACS. Those few who do not access the web or care to make online payments can phone Cynan Ellis-Evans on +44-(0)1223-263477 and we will provide a hard copy registration form and assist with accommodation.

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It is envisaged that most people attending the reunion will want to be on-site over the weekend. The college will provide us with a booking code for an online booking facility to book your accommodation. More details of this will be available on the Signy 2018 website. There are a selection of well-appointed twin suite, single suite and single semi-suite available. Information for those wanting external accommodation options will also be available from the website but be aware that such Cambridge accommodation is often at a premium over our long tourist season. College accommodation will be reserved for the Reunion, but we would recommend booking early as those rooms not taken by early summer may have to be released back to the college.

We will be publicising the Signy Reunion as widely as possible but cannot be sure we will get to everyone so please spread the word about the reunion with fellow Signy Fids. A decade has been far too long and we want to see as many of you as possible at Fitzwilliam College in September 2018.

Exhibition of Memorabilia at the Signy 71st Reunion (Bill Block)

It is planned to have an exhibition at the 71st Reunion of eclectic items about Signy Island, its people, its research and life at the station. The base was opened on 18 March 1947 and remained occupied continuously until 13 April 1996 – a total of 49 years and 27 days. Since the austral summer of 1996-7 the base has been operational every southern summer to the present day. Generations of Fids have lived and worked at the base and there must be a large amount of memorabilia amongst the clutch of these Fids. We appeal to all Signyites to search their attics, sheds, desks, pit rooms or wherever else this material may be lurking and bring it along to make a Signy Exhibition Extraordinaire!

Amongst a range of items which would be of interest please bring along base winterers photos, maps (real or fictional), paintings, sketches, mid-winter presents, stamps, photographs, books, diaries and any quirky items that you can find. As part of the exhibition we plan to provide at least one slide projector to enable folk to show slides of their time at Signy (maximum 10 slides per individual). All material will be returned to their owners at the end of the Reunion unless donated.

It will help to plan the exhibition space if Fids could let me know before the Reunion the approximate bench or demo board space required. My email address is block.bill22@gmail.com and I will be pleased to discuss any special requirements for your exhibit. **See you at the reunion!**

Signy 71st Reunion Magazine (Bob Burton)

I am planning to produce a 28-page magazine, as I did for the 60th Signy Reunion. With better technology, we are hoping it will be more lavish and be printed in colour. (It wasn't worth the extra cost of colour-printing first time round because most of the photos were in B&W!) The 2007 edition was a collection of anecdotes of activities and events at Signy. Most were of the 'old days' pre-1970 and only two covered the 21st century.

All contributions are welcome but it would be very interesting for us old-timers to have some articles about life at Signy post-1981 and particularly as it is lived now (i.e. in the last two decades).

So, dig out your diaries, sort through the slides/image files and send the resulting, superbly illustrated articles to Bob Burton (rburton@ntlworld.com), 63 Common Lane, Hemingford Abbots, Huntingdon, PE28 9AW.

BAS Club News

HALLEY BAY 1977 WINTERING TEAM -40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION SHREWSBURY 16 SEPTEMBER 2017

By Ken Lax

The 1977 wintering team meets every two years and this year's reunion coincided with the 40th anniversary, so we invited some guests to celebrate with us.

For the third time in succession we met at the Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury. An informal lunch gathering on the Saturday lunch time was followed by a dinner in the evening.

Our special guests this year were Andy and Rosy Smith (of ZFIDS website fame), Genghis Wright and Hwfa Jones (last doggy men at Halley Bay), Gerry Nicholson (Twin Otter crew). We also invited Jenny Agutter (Railway Children), Mike Harding, Stuart Lawrence (Bransfield Captain), Gary Studd (Twin Otter pilot), Pete Clarkson (HQ) and Keith Gainey (BAS Club magazine editor) but they were unable to attend – maybe next time.

From the wintering team we had (in alphabetical order) : Pete Anderson-Witty (Diesel Mech.), John Bradford (Geophysics), Michael Davies (aka Honk. Diesel mech.), Steve Emery (Electrician), Tom Hardie-Forsyth (Radio Op.), Phil Hart (Met) and Linda Hart, Ken Lax (Base Commander), Ian Levack (Doc.), Phil Marsh (geologist and honorary member after forced winter in Belgrano), Harry Matthews (VLF), George Morgan (Met) and daughter Rachel, Mike Pinnock (Beastie), Ian Somerton (Geophysics) and John Wright (GA). Phil and Linda live in Canada, as does John Wright, so it was especially pleasing that they had made the effort to travel to Shrewsbury and it was great to see them. They were only outdone by Tom Hardie-Forsyth (Fosdyke), who had travelled from Kurdistan to be at the reunion (via a depot stop in Yorkshire). Steve Chambers (Beastie), Mike Houlcroft (Tractor mech.), Andy Quinn (Geophysics) and Barry Gardiner (Met.) were unable to attend this year. We have still not been able to locate Jim Oliver (Cook) and Dave Hogg (Beastie).



A great time was had by all and the grip show was the cause of much hilarity. The presence of our guests made a big difference to the get-together.

The wintering FIDS were all most impressed that Harry has had an article published in a naturist magazine. Not quite

To celebrate the 40th anniversary a special cake was commissioned with a picture of the Bransfield at the Low Shelf and this was kindly sponsored by George Morgan. Rosy agreed to cut the cake after Andy had calculated the angle required for the slices.



so impressed when we learned it was only Nature magazine and not Health and Efficiency. It was good to see Harry after such a long time because for the last three reunions he has been in Japan and we have had to make contact by telephone.

On the Sunday we trooped off to the nearby Shrewsbury Museum, where they were on the final day of their Antarctic exhibition. They had pyramid tents, food boxes, Nansen sledges and the like. Several group photos were taken in the museum and much comment on the luxurious contents of the food boxes were heard. A virtual reality of the new Halley was on show too.



We resolved to have the next reunion in 2019 at the Lion, but may try a different venue for 2021.

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MARGUERITE BAY REUNION 27th October 2017

By Jenny Dean and Allan Wearden

Once again we gathered at the Windermere Hydro on the 27th of October with a goodly number making a full weekend of it which made a lively bar on Friday evening, in order to get practice in for Saturday! A group of walkers gathered on Saturday morning to be led on a walk by TV's Paul Rose in exploring some of the local footpaths, others headed to bigger hills whilst others visited a local pub 'The Watermill' at Ings to sample the local ales!

The usual Saturday film show was a double bill of Mike Jaques showing some of the late Al McManus [Big Mac] pictures, which developed into a quiz of name the base and the Fids! Followed by a presentation from UKAHT of the work done at Horseshoe Island and their plans for Stonington next season, by Camilla and then Lisa selling some UKAHT merchandise, to help create some new interest from the old winterers of that area!



The final number for the excellent Saturday dinner was 100 with a span of years from sailing south in 1953 for the winter of 54 to others still working at BAS!



After our usual thanks to the excellent Hydro staff by Jenny, a brief speech was made by Paul Rose about Mike Butler. Several items were auctioned by Simon Almond [thanks Arkwright] for the 'Mike Butler Fund' [see Benevolent Fund report] with some excellent bids amounting to £200. A special mention to Paul for paying £100 for a bottle of whisky which was then drunk in the bar! Overall together with a silent auction over the weekend £665 was raised for the fund, and together with a couple of personal donations made a grand total of £815! So many thanks to all those that bought or donated items or helped in any way for this very worthy cause, especially John Blunn.

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This year it was really great to see such a good number of Fids from the 90's which had really snowballed on social media [thanks Nigel] as 25 years since they had first headed south and we hope to see them again in the future, and especially their help for the excellent for the beer sales which stretched well into the wee hours! As per usual many photos being taken over the weekend, special thanks to Ken and the excellent Bailey! A small group stayed on till Monday which

weather-wise must have been our best ever weekend in the Lakes!

Next year we are moving venues, the Hydro has served us very well for many years but with the recent price rises we think it's time for a change. As 2018 will be the 50th anniversary of the first ever MBR at Bethesda North Wales we are returning to the area, although the other side of the mountain! We have been offered excellent rates at the 3 star George IV Hotel [including 18 single rooms], in Criccieth. As long as the majority make a FULL W/E of it we should have sole use of the hotel with the cost of around £100 per person for the entire w/e of the 2nd November 2018. Lots of things to see in the area, and we already have a volunteer walk leader [Thanks Adrian!] in place. We have sourced a local micro brewery for some ale, and you will certainly be very impressed at the low cost of the gin!

So look for more details next year, although this is likely to a one off deal at this venue at these prices!

Anyone needing info about the next event, contact

allan.wearden@btinternet.com [01254 247541] or jenny.dean@cantab.net

Jenny & Al (note all photos Ken Darnell)

GRILLAGE VILLAGE (HALLEY BAY 2) REUNION JUNE 27th 2018

By Roger Tiffin, Chris Gostick, Bob Wells, Malcolm Guyatt

A small group of FIDs* stationed at Grillage Village has decided to hold a reunion for winterers 1967-1973, the life of the Halley 2 Base. The emphasis is on informality, with an afternoon/evening get together as the main focus of the event. It will be held in a large garden, with marquee cover to protect from the weather. There will be a BBQ with soft drinks, teas and coffee provided, but it is expected that everyone will bring their own alcoholic drinks. There is plenty of evening light at that time of year and hopefully the weather will be warm. The invitation includes Fid's partners as well, and it is suggested that your stay is extended for more than one night, to explore the area, and continue to renew old friendships.

The address of the venue is **Stoneleigh Lodge, 5, Station Rd, Scalby, Scarborough, YO13 0PU**. Scalby is 2.5 miles north of Scarborough centre and Rail and Bus stations, and is a "village" that is attached to Scarborough, having its own pubs, village shop and cafe. There are regular buses (not late at night), and taxis. The rail station has a regular service from York on the East Coast mainline and Trans Pennine routes. If coming by road, the main road is the A64 from the South West, but there is good access on A roads from north and south.

Scarborough is Britain's first seaside resort. The town and surrounding countryside have a lot to offer visitors. The sea front has 2 bays, separated by a rocky headland on which sits the castle. There are museums, a theatre and cinemas. As well as the usual seaside attractions, the countryside has the North York Moors National Park, Dalby Forest, cliffs, more beaches and valleys incised into the moors. Whitby, Robin Hood's Bay, the North York Moors Steam Railway, and numerous attractions are all nearby, catering for the many visitors that arrive in the main holiday season. Accommodation is easy to find in Scarborough as would be expected from a holiday resort: Everything from camp sites to a 5 star hotel. There are many smaller hotels, boarding houses and B and B's – a large choice -which should cater for everyone's taste. Some of this is in Scalby itself. A campsite is half a mile down the road, and there is rough camping available at the venue.

It would help us greatly at this stage if you would indicate interest in the event, and nearer the time we would hope for a definite commitment – in order that we can cater accordingly.

CONTACT BOB WELLS cumnorbob@yahoo.com

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FUCHS MEDAL

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2018 - GUIDELINES

The Fuchs Medal Awards Committee invites nominations for the 2018 award as follows:

Eligibility

The award is intended to recognise outstanding devotion to the Survey's interests, beyond the call of normal duty, by men or women who are or were members of the Survey, or closely connected with its work. The recipients are normally chosen from those who have given sterling service over a long period of time, and/or those who have made an exceptional contribution in a particular season or seasons. More than one medal may be awarded in one year but only in exceptional circumstances.

"The Polar Medal recognizes those who have made notable contributions to the exploration and to the knowledge of polar regions, and there are other honours bestowed by the Queen or by learned societies from time to time, but many who contribute to the work of the Survey cannot appropriately be proposed for these awards. It is for these persons, whether field workers, support personnel at the bases, or office staff, scientists or technicians, that the Fuchs Medal is primarily intended. Thus, it will reflect the concern of Sir Vivian for the well being of all members of the organization, and his interest in their activities, whatever part they play."

Nominations

Nominations may be made by any members of the Survey (past and present), or anyone closely connected with its work, who can speak with personal knowledge of a candidate's contribution.

The proposer should act as a lead person and provide a detailed citation (a few lines are not sufficient). The citation may be supported by written submissions from supporters or by signatures to indicate a measure of broad support.

Bases may also make recommendations as corporate bodies, but they should not normally submit more than one name each year. If a Base does not wish to make a nomination in a given year, this should be reported.

There is no retrospective limit to the award and a running list of unsuccessful nominations is kept. After a lapse of two or three years it is expected that past recommendations will lapse and may only be successful if they are repeated.

Exclusions

Members of the Committee will not themselves nominate candidates but may, if they wish, stimulate others to submit particular recommendations. Members of the Committee are disqualified from being candidates for the Fuchs Medal. The medal will not normally be awarded posthumously.

Timing of nominations

Nominations may be made at any time of the year, but must be submitted by 28th February to be considered for 2018.

Inscription

The Fuchs Medal Awards Committee appreciates suggestions for the medal inscription in the nominations.

PLEASE ADDRESS ANY QUERIES IN CONFIDENCE TO PAUL COSLETT (BAS CLUB FUCHS MEDAL SECRETARY) AT BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY, HIGH CROSS, MADINGLEY ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 0ET, or PREFERABLY BY E-MAIL TO: phcoslett@yahoo.co.uk

CLOSING DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S NOMINATIONS IS 28 FEBRUARY 2018



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LAWS PRIZE

2017 AWARD - Established thirty years ago when Dr Richard Laws, the then Director of BAS, retired the Laws Prize is one way of recognising the best of our young scientists through this prize each year underlines just what a store of talent BAS has. The prize is supported by an annual grant from the Government of the British Antarctic Territory

The Laws Prize Committee met on 4th May and considered several possible candidates for the 2017 Laws Prize, awarded annually to an outstanding young BAS scientist who has proven aptitude for research and is likely to make a significant contribution in the future.



Scott Hosking

I am delighted to announce that Scott Hosking was selected as this year's winner for his valuable work on climate variability and his innovative approach to Big Data analyses.

David Walton

Secretary, Laws Prize Committee

UPDATE ON THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (BAOHP) Nov 2017 By Allan Wearden

I am very pleased to report that 37 more interviews have now been uploaded to the website making a total of 88. To read follow link to BAS Club website: www.basclub.org/oral-history/index/ . it is hoped that more will be uploaded early next year. Many thanks to Peter Bird, John Zerfahs, Ieuan Hopkins and especially Andy Smith for leading, uploading and ironing out all the gremlins!

On the transcribing side 173 [73%] of the 241 interviews in the main series-1 have now been transcribed and a total of 187 [65%] of the 286 interviews, the full total of all the series, have now been completed---so we are getting there!

Andy Smith is way out in front in the amount completed, just having transcribed a marathon of 4 hours 26 minutes covering a David Drewry, Director of BAS from 87-94, during a period of great change and expansion in BAS following the Falklands Conflict! As usual many thanks to all those involved in the transcribing or who have helped the project in any way.

The oral history section has been visited on many occasions by people doing research, and to help out with information when compiling obituaries.

Some interesting clips from recent transcripts:

- Having skua for Christmas dinner on the Plateau, after it was shot with a 45!
- Having to learn to play bridge to keep the other 3 base members happy and make a four up!
- Being the first to survey the new island at Deception after the eruption!
- Viewing the Southern Lights in their pyjamas at Fossil Bluff!
- Training with Duncan Carse, when he was living in a garden shed!
- Being onboard the *Kista Dan* when it was rescued by the US Glacier.
- Onboard the *Kista* when it came together with the *Biscoe*, resulting in the loss of the Beavers wing! The rebuilt Beaver going through the ice at the Argentine Islands on its first full flight!

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“Non-Oral” WRITTEN HISTORIES

These are a further enhancement to the British Antarctic Oral History Project (BAOHP).
All ‘non-oral’ (or written) histories are co-ordinated by John ‘Percy’ Edwards
All ‘non-oral’ histories will be published in the magazine. This ensures that a copy will be in the BAS Club archives as copies of all magazines are kept both in hard copy and electronic versions
The actual written history will be forwarded to BAS to include in their compilation of history

Timothy Julian Christie (‘Robbie’)

This is Timothy Julian Christie writing this imaginary interview in February 2018.

Name: Timothy Julian Churchill Christie Date of Birth 9th March 1934

Place of Birth: Cheltenham, Glos, UK

A.N.OTHER: When did you first hear about Antarctica & what interested you in going there?

T.J.C: There were many factors. I first learnt about the Antarctic when I was about 6 years old living in India and was given a book called “Scott of the Antarctic” At the same time I had a school friend whose father was Edward Norton (leader of the Mallory and Irving expedition) who at that time had climbed higher on Mount Everest than anyone else, and I suspect that it was from meeting him that a latent sense of adventure was kindled – that, and a year later seeing the peak of Nandi Devi thrusting its head through the monsoon clouds when I rode my pony up onto a high ridge above Nainital.

Then, when I was at Cambridge I heard a talk from a certain Dr Vivian Fuchs who was about to lead an expedition across Antarctica. Later, when skiing in Austria, I met two Fids who had just come back from Stonington, where they had dog-sledged. At that time I had no idea that there were ordinary people doing things like that. But I think what finally induced me to apply to go to Antarctica was seeing the big red-hulled ships docking at Hobart in Tasmania when I lived there and wishing that I was on board and Antarctica-bound.

A.N.OTHER: You mentioned India. What were you doing in India at that age?

T.J.C: My father was an officer in the Royal Engineers and he went out to rebuild Quetta after the 1937 earthquake. Our family went out to join him a year later when I was just 4 years old. The outbreak of WWII stranded us in India and we could not get back to UK for four years until we managed to get passage on a troop ship while the war was underway. Travelling back through the Mediterranean at the centre of a huge convoy, with all the ships flying barrage balloons to prevent us being dive-bombed was quite an experience for a 10 year old boy, especially with the ships stretching out to the horizon where an escort of destroyers tacked up and down to protect us

A.N.OTHER: After that I imagine life was a bit less exciting.

T.J.C: Well yes, but as a National Service Officer I was posted to Korea. Luckily the armistice was signed a few days before I arrived but I got blamed by my senior officers for (in their words) “almost re-starting the war” when I exploded an unexploded bomb after dark near the Royal Tank Regiment’s camp and they thought they were being shelled by the Chinese! It did cause a bit of an international incident to the extent that the British divisional commander was in the process of phoning the General of the neighbouring American division, when I went in to explain to the adjutant of the Tank Regiment that “it was me that done it”.

I think I was a bit irresponsible about explosives in those days, because my most memorable feat was to blow my commanding officer off his private toilet while I was doing an experimental crater charge! (This is a true story I promise you).

A.N.OTHER: You mentioned Cambridge?

T.J.C Yes, I learnt rock climbing and ice climbing there as well as getting a somewhat mediocre engineering degree. I also led a scientific-cum-climbing expedition to an island in Arctic Norway where we were delighted to find a large number of peaks which had never been climbed before. At that time we didn’t know there were any virgin peaks left in Europe. When I returned 40 years later there was a road around the island and a bus waiting for us on the quay - perhaps my first inkling that things were far more exciting 40 years ago!

A.N.OTHER: And Tasmania, was that an “adventure” too?

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T.J.C: Yes, very much so! To start with I once crashed a light aircraft carrying a party of schoolboys in the middle of the South West Wilderness at a time when there were no helicopters based in Tasmania and it was a two days walk through the bush from where we crashed to the nearest road-head. The next time I was allowed to take the controls of an aircraft was in a Twin Otter on the way back from Fossil Bluff! Tasmania was a great place for adventures, but while most bushwalkers were focussed on the South West Wilderness (now a World Heritage Site) my friends and I were amazed to find other areas where no one had ever been before and which offered just as much challenge. One of the places, Cape Pillar, was covered with scrub that was so dense in places that it took us four weekends thrashing our way through it with a machete to get to the end of the cape. To bypass some of the worst of the scrub we ended up boulder hopping along a 3ft wide ledge between the vegetation and the highest vertical sea cliffs in the southern hemisphere – a decidedly scary operation but the coastal views, which no one had ever seen before, were outstanding and subsequently we organised a party of twenty people to cut a track through the scrub to open this wonderful area for all to see. Another peninsula we found had two incredible seas stacks in a raging chasm between the end of the cape and an island. We called these the Candlestick and the Totem Pole and got a climbing party onto the 400ft high Candlestick using kites and balloons and a spectacular Tyrolean Traverse. The Totem Pole was just a dramatic slender rock monolith which we thought was unclimbable in those days. Now both this cape and Cape Pillar are National Parks and they have built a \$2million dollar paved track connecting them which is now so popular that they have had to limit the number of people visiting the areas to prevent “tourist erosion”. And the Totem Pole is reckoned to be the hardest & most sort-after rock climb in Australia and has featured in programmes on the BBC and articles in The Times.

A.N.OTHER: *What about your voyage south to the Falkland Islands? What year was it?*

T.J.C: We left the UK for the Falkland Islands in October 1969. It was a pretty slow journey and if it hadn't been for the Atlantic Ocean we could have got from Southampton to Port Stanley faster on bicycles than we did on the *John Biscoe*! It was pretty boring, except when Paul Gurling, who had never previously been further abroad than the Isle of Wight, was stopped by a Uruguayan policeman who asked him for his passport in Spanish and Paul, who thought he had said “Filthy picture?”, told him to “sugar off”!

A.N.OTHER: *Presumably you had to wait in the Falklands until the ships could get through the ice to Stonington.*

T.J.C: After a quick trip to South Georgia, Paul Gurling and I were seconded to *HMS Endurance* to assist with a hydrographic survey for plotting Admiralty charts of the coasts of the Falkland Islands. I think we all wondered why we were doing this because we couldn't believe anyone would ever bring any big ships in there, but ten years later, there on our televisions screens were The *Canberra*, the *QE2* and the rest of Invasion Fleet all crowded together in Falkland Sound! Hopefully any casualties suffered by the Navy were not due to submerged reefs we had failed to find! The survey went quite well except that one of the helicopters which ferried us around crashed in Salvador Water and we had an interesting time salvaging it.

A.N.OTHER: *So how did you get down to Stonington?*

T.J.C: Well that's a long story we nearly didn't get there at all! The original plan was that the *HMS Endurance* would take us south and transfer us to the *John Biscoe* somewhere around the Argentine Islands. On the way down we stopped just north of the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula and survey parties were landed on various islands and headlands in the area to try to resolve the difference between two incompatible surveys that had been carried out sometime in the past. I was detailed to fly to Hope Island with Commander Campbell, the 1st Lieutenant of *HMS Endurance*, but as he was busy sorting out the other parties he told me to go on alone and he would join me later. The helicopter pilot had the greatest difficulty finding the island among the icebergs and when I saw it I was not surprised – it was just a thin strip of barren rock and snow.

However it was great way to start my Antarctic career - on my own in complete isolation kicking steps in the snow up to the summit of a tiny island from where, for the first time, I could see the ramparts of the Antarctic mainland.

A.N.OTHER: *How long did you stay there alone?*

T.J.C: Not too long. Cdr Campbell and another sailor arrived a couple of hours later and we got some survey done, but that night a great storm blew up and we woke to the noise of spray from the waves breaking over the tent and finding the island surrounded in mist. We were marooned there for 4 days as the helicopter could not get in because of the mist and, as the island was surrounded by hidden reefs causing giant waves, neither could a boat. We were soon running short of food. It was on this island that I fell into the sea when running away from a Leopard seal which I later found out was just a harmless Weddell seal!

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A.N.OTHER: How did you eventually get off the island?

T.J.C: On the fourth morning we received a radio message from *HMS Endurance* to say that one of the helicopter observers had suddenly collapsed and died in the night and that the Captain was eager to return to Port Stanley, so that the young man could have a proper funeral and grave on land which his family could visit. As the waves had subsided somewhat on one side of the island, Commander Campbell thought it might be possible to get a boat in to us safely. So it was decided to try to pick us up by sending *Endurance's* survey boat, the *James Caird* through the mist, guided by radar from the ship and this slightly dodgy operation worked. Somewhat presumptuously I noted in my diary that while the original *James Caird* had taken Ernest Shackleton and his crew from his *Endurance* to be marooned on an island, the present day *James Caird* took us from being marooned on an island back to our *Endurance*!

A.N.OTHER: So did you return to the Falkland Islands?

T.J.C: Yes, and then *Endurance* then went off to "wag a flag" in South America, so we resumed our hydrographic survey of Falkland Sound living in a bothy on Great Island, where, amongst other things, I was attacked by a skua, sexually assaulted by a penguin and, with two other surveyors, spent a night sleeping on a bed of turkey-buzzard guano when sheltering in a dilapidated boatshed on some remote island when the *James Caird* broke down and failed to pick us up one night.

A.N.OTHER: So how did you get to Stonington in the end?

T.J.C: Well *HMS Endurance* eventually returned, by which time it was carrying four knights of the realm including Sir Vivien Fuchs, a number of other Fids and BAS head office staff and half a dozen huskies. We were still supposed to meet up with the *Biscoe* but she was ice-bound off Adelaide Island and, when the Navy decided it didn't want the *Endurance* to hang around any longer, it really looked as if, after nearly 5 months, we were going to have to return to the UK. As a last resort Sir Vivien radioed Adelaide Base and asked if it was possible in the prevailing weather conditions for a plane to fly up to pick us up from the plateau on Anvers Island. A short time later there was an announcement over the ship's tannoy: "Would all Fids assemble on the helicopter deck carrying only a camera and a spare pair of knickers"!

A.N.OTHER: So you finally flew in to Stonington?

T.J.C: Yes, but there was one more potentially serious problem. We were helicoptered up from *Endurance* up onto the plateau just as the plane appeared through the clouds but, by the time all the Fids and dogs were embarked, a strong katabatic cross wind had developed and the pilot, Dave Rowley who I was sitting next to in the cockpit, couldn't get the plane airborne in spite of several runs right up to the edge of the plateau. I found the first of these attempts quite scary, as at the time I didn't understand how you could stop a ski plane from skiing over the edge of the plateau since it had no brakes. However, I began to understand the significance of the tannoy announcement about the "spare pair of knickers"!!

After the 3rd attempt to take off failed, Dave said "Sorry, no good". "Doom!" I thought, "Back to the Falklands again". But then Dave said: "Let's try uphill shall we? Prepare for sideways take off". He then turned the plane until it was pointing uphill and into the wind, which was so strong that we took off in just a few yards.

A.N.OTHER: When you arrived on base did you get out surveying right away?

T.J.C: By this time it was March so I had expected that we would probably have a fair length of time on base before undertaking any long survey journeys. I was therefore surprised and delighted that as soon as we got out of the plane onto the glacier near Stonington, the base commander, Tony Bushell, who had sledged up to meet us, came up to me to introduce himself and immediately pointed up to the mountains above us and said "We'll be heading off there in three weeks' time." Tony was a dynamic base commander. I think he thought time spent on base was time wasted and we had a great autumn journey up over the plateau and down to the Wordie Ice Shelf and by the time we got back to base winter was beginning, with mornings and evenings merging into each other.

There was one strange event though. On the last day of the journey Tony's lead dog, Amber, appeared to be ill and a worried Tony said to me, accusingly, but in all seriousness. "You know those dogs you brought down from Greenland on the *Endurance*; I think Amber has caught rabies from one of them". When 3 days later Amber dropped 2 pups on the floor of the base hut, I was constrained to comment that I was surprised that a dog driver as experienced as Tony couldn't tell the difference between being pregnant and having rabies!

A.N.OTHER: What did you do during your free time on base?

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T.J.C: I have no recollection of having any free time at Stonington! My diary records that I had never worked harder in my life – working out the results from the previous survey trip, plotting maps, planning the next survey, working out what features needed to be surveyed to control the limited oblique aerial photos we had, and making star fixes. In the days before calculators, any calculations for star fixes had to be done using ten figure log tables. Then there were routine jobs like cutting up seals for 100 dogs, cooking food for 15 hungry Fids, being on “gash”, cleaning the hut, digging up ice for water, preparing clothes and equipment for the next journey and, most important for the dog drivers, building or repairing the sledges and making harnesses and traces for the dogs. As I didn’t have my own dog team I spent quite a time helping to rear the pups.

A.N.OTHER: *What about in the evenings?*

T.J.C: There *was* a bar at Stonington where people were able to relax in a conventional way in the evenings and there was a piano which I sometimes played, probably much to the annoyance of those who were trying to sleep. But they were generally happy days on base at Stonington, even though most people were keen to get back out sledging.

A.N.OTHER: *How did you celebrate midwinter?*

T.J.C: The midwinter celebrations were a nice break from the hectic routine of life at Stonington. The living room was decorated with a Christmas tree, balloons and paper chains. Dinner was served by candlelight with crackers and party hats and plenty of sherry, wine and champagne. One felt one was at a real banquet even though the steak was so tough it was almost inedible. I think it was reindeer meat brought down from South Georgia and buried in the glacier to keep it fresh for three months. Paul Bentley slightly lowered the tone by appearing at the meal without a shirt, but he did wear a tie and a motoring hat.

After the meal there was a sing song, Henry Blakely on the guitar, Mick Pawley on the mouth organ and I think I was playing the ukulele. Then a game of RISK which lasted 3 hours or so, followed by a few Sea Shanties which I accompanied on the piano. By this time most people were so drunk that they quite enjoyed them - particularly “Ben Backstay” and the “chip chop cherry chop” chorus.

A.N.OTHER: *Did you ever go sledging in the winter months?*

T.J.C: Yes, we often went sledging in winter because when the sea was frozen you could often travel 40 miles in a day. Most people therefore only spent a few weeks either side of midwinter’s day on base. My diary says: “*Shall be glad to get out again. Base with 15 people and 120 dogs is a bit chaotic. The Beatles and Bagpipes full blast simultaneously all day (Ali Linn has a ‘Teach Yourself the Bagpipes’ record – ghastly), and at night the snoring...*”

My first winter’s journey on the sea-ice was to recover a depot that had been abandoned on Pourquoi Pas Island in the autumn. It was early July so the sun never rose in the daytime, although sunlight could be seen on the high mountain tops at midday, and the full moon (when there was one) never actually set, although it did tend to be hidden behind the high mountains to the east, early in the “day”. After leaving the old base hut on Horseshoe Island en route for the Blaiklock hut we had a bit of a drama in the Bigourdan Fjord. It was a moonlit night, but to begin with we kept finding ourselves diverting around phantom icebergs that didn’t exist. After this we spent a whole hour unsuccessfully trying to divert round a huge iceberg which *did* exist and which turned out the next morning to be the Arrowsmith Peninsular! In the end, at about 1 am, we found an island in the dark where we decided to camp as the dogs were very tired. We just hoped that the sea-ice wouldn’t get blown out overnight in which case we would have been in serious trouble.

A.N.OTHER: *It sounds as if sea-ice sledging was rather a dangerous occupation.*

T.J.C: sledging on sea-ice is probably not dangerous so long as one doesn’t sledge on ice that is less than about four inches thick. Camping on sea-ice is more of a risk because there’s always the danger that you might wake up in the morning and find yourself floating out in the Pacific towards Tahiti!

A.N.OTHER: *Did that ever happen?*

T.J.C: Not to me, no, but the previous year’s survey team thought the sea-ice was about to go out when they were camped on the appropriately named Terra Firma Islands, and the dog drivers persuaded the surveyor to abandon all his equipment on the island so that they could sledge lightly loaded and at top speed over the disintegrating sea-ice to the nearest point on the mainland.

A.N.OTHER: *And is that equipment still there?*

T.J.C: Oh no! It was worth a lot of money and the next winter we received instructions from Fuchs to sledge down and collect it as soon as the ice was strong enough. Although 1970 had not been a good year for

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sea-ice, by the middle of August, Tony Bushell thought that the ice was as good as it was going to get, so five of us set off south across Marguerite Bay to retrieve the gear. On the second day Ted Clapp radioed us from Port Stanley to say that in view of the recent "sultry weather" he was very concerned about this journey. Tony radioed back to reassure him and we reached the islands with only two sledges and two skis (mine) having broken through the ice. We then collected the survey equipment, checked it as best we could, depot'd it the next day on Cape Bertaux to be picked up on our summer journey south, and made our way back across the frozen sea.

A.N.OTHER: That must have been a rather tense experience!

T.J.C: For some reason I don't think it was. The sun had risen for the first time for 3 months, two days previously and, in spite of Ted Clapp's concerns, the temperature had dropped to -38oC so I remember skiing back across the ice through the sunshine happily singing Gilbert and Sullivan duets with Rod Pashley much to the amusement of his dogs and the consternation of the dogs behind - and their driver!

A.N.OTHER: And what about the dangers of summer sledging? Crevasses and things?

T.J.C: Crevasses were always a potential danger, except perhaps on the plateau, and they were a danger that got worse as the summer wore on. But even so, when there were crevasses around dog-sledging was nearly always safer than skidoos or muskegs, because usually a dog stumbling when it put a foot through a snow bridge or even falling into a crevasse, gave the driver warning of the hazard before the loaded sledge reached it. Potentially the worst crevasse incident we had involved our fellow surveyors on a glacier opposite Fossil Bluff in January 1971 when Jim Woodhouse noticed a crack in the snow ahead and went to probe it not realising the crack was on the far side of a wide crevasse. With his first blow therefore, the probe punctured the snow bridge on which he was standing and which was presumably held up by air pressure and, according to those behind him, the whole crevasse "exploded" for a distance of several yards either side. Jim fell 100 feet but was surprisingly not seriously injured. However two of his dogs, who were lying on the snow bridge over the crevasse when it collapsed, fell in and struggled out of the harnesses from which they were hanging, falling down beside Jim and being killed outright.

I think we all had crevasse problems. I personally fell into two crevasses, both times when I was on my own, one which I got out myself and one from which I had to be rescued when my friends in the camp below heard my shouts and saw my head sticking above the snow.

A.N.OTHER: Were those the only dangers?

T.J.C: Well the wind was often a danger when one was camping, particularly at the bottom of the famous Sodabread slope near Stonington base because here, the air that had been cooled on the summit of the plateau would suddenly come pouring down the mountain side giving wind speeds of over 100 mph. We had an epic there on Drummy Small's 21st birthday when we were using new tents. There were faint stirrings of wind at 3 am but by 7 am a full strength blow had developed and at about 10 am one of our back guys snapped. With Drummy belaying me from inside the tent I crawled out to fix it, but more than once the wind swept me down to the dogs. I did manage to fix the guy rope in the end, but the state of the tent continued to deteriorate and we were just contemplating evacuating to Jim Woodhouse and Rocky Wyatt's tent when they radioed us to say their tent was badly ripped and could they come over to ours. They were slightly downwind of us, so Drummy volunteered to try to get a rope over to them while I belayed him from inside the tent. Twice he was blown down beyond the dogs but crabbing and crawling he eventually crossed the 50 yard gap and belayed the rope to Jim's sledge, and then made his way back by prussiking up the rope he had just delivered. It was late afternoon before the other two managed to get to us along the rope carrying their sleeping bags and, as things weren't getting any better, we started to prepare for the worst. We realised that unless we were fully prepared if and when the tent blew away, we wouldn't stand much of a chance of surviving. We knew we had to sleep fully clothed in our Zardski sacks and sleeping bags with our boots on and, to stop ourselves being blown away in our bags once the tent had gone, we drove pitons and ice screws through the ground sheet into the ice and belayed ourselves to them. We had remained in radio contact with Stonington all this time but when our aerial blew away at 10.30 pm and we failed to come up on the 11 pm radio "sched", Stonington assumed we had blown away with it and were naturally seriously concerned. Somehow the tent survived the night and we returned to Stonington when the wind dropped but had to spend the next two days sewing up and strengthening our tents using the somewhat antiquated electric sewing machine we had on base.

A.N.OTHER: And what about the cold?

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T.J.C: It was almost always a combination of low temperatures and wind that caused the problems. The cold on its own could usually be overcome by wearing the right clothes and most of us found that (rather surprisingly) wearing pyjama trousers under wind-proofs was usually pretty effective when sledging. The worst time for me for getting cold was almost always on survey stations. These by their nature were usually high up and exposed, and you were usually standing still in the wind, possibly for an hour or more often without gloves because you had to operate the survey instruments with bare hands.

Dog sledging was always warmer than travelling on machines because you were physically moving - skiing, walking or more often than not, pushing. The coldest I ever felt when sledging was when travelling on the Lamma Glacier with Henry Blakely with minus 25 degree temperatures and a freezing 30 knot wind Henry's nose had gone white and rock-hard from the cold and I had to ski beside him trying to thaw his nose while he drove the dogs. The sledge in front, which was lightly loaded, was well ahead and did not realise that there was this problem and did not stop. So we just had to keep going. Twice we overturned the sledge on the sastrugi and had to reload and re-lash it with bare hands. Eventually the front sledge did stop and we storm-pitched the tent as fast as we could. The dogs' harnesses were frozen solid even though they had been against their bodies and our sleeping fleeces were like corrugated iron. A scar which I had had on my thumb since I was twelve years old opened up and was red & raw and Richy Hesbrook who had been on the sledge behind us had huge frostbite blisters on his arms. Minus 25 degrees centigrade and a 30 knot wind is, I believe equivalent to minus 80 degrees centigrade on a calm day.

A.N.OTHER: What was the main survey task you were sent down to complete?

T.J.C: BAS wanted us to provide an accurate survey link between Stonington and Fossil Bluff. This would include measuring three 50 mile long tellurometer lines across the Wordie Ice Shelf to link Graham Land to Palmer Land.

A.N.OTHER: What's a tellurometer?

T.J.C: A tellurometer is an electronic distance measuring device. To measure the distance between two points tellurometers have to be set up on both of the two points simultaneously. The first tellurometer then transmits a high frequency radio wave to the second tellurometer where the wave is electronically reflected back to the first tellurometer which then measure the phase shift of the reflected wave and thence how long it took the wave to get to the other station and back - a matter of only a few millionths of a second. Multiplying half the time lapse by the speed of light gives the distance between the two instruments.

In practice, to determine the distance between two survey stations a number of measurements at different frequencies would be taken by the first tellurometer and then the operation would be repeated by the second instrument and the results compared. Even with our longest lines, which were about 50 miles in length, the distance measured by the two tellurometers nearly always agreed within a few inches.

A.N.OTHER: How many trips into the field did that survey take?

T.J.C: Virtually two whole summer seasons and, as there was no safe sea-ice either year, we had to travel overland both times. This meant that before we could start the long journey south to our working area we had to spend several weeks relaying food for the journey up onto the 6,000 foot plateau above Stonington via the Sodabread slope which was so steep that over most of its length the sledge loads had to be limited to two or three hundred pounds

A.N.OTHER: As you left so early in the year, was the journey south itself particularly difficult?

T.J.C: The 130 mile overland journey from Stonington to Palmer Land took us from sea level up high over the plateau, down the Neny Trough almost to the Larsen Ice Shelf and then up and down various glaciers and across the Wordie Ice Shelf. The first year was hard with poor weather so that often we only managed to travel 3 or 4 miles in a day, and it took us over 3 weeks to get to our working area. The second year it was rather easier.

A.N.OTHER: And when you got there what did you do?

T.J.C: In the first summer, we established a number of survey stations on the southern side of the Wordie Ice Shelf, two of which were in an area where there was genuine "exploration" to be done - an area where no one had ever been before containing some magnificent snow-covered spires. These survey stations were to be used to measure the all-important lines across the Wordie Ice Shelf - the "Cross-Wordie lines" we called them. But before we had a chance to measure them, Paul Bentley discovered his tellurometer wasn't working. He therefore decided that we should abandon the measurement of the "Cross-Wordie lines" that year so that he and his GAs could head south to collect a replacement tellurometer left for him at Ball Point in King George VIth Sound by George Kistruck from Fossil Bluff. So we were then able to start surveying

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northwards from there but after measuring only two lines I sadly dropped my tellurometer over a 500 foot cliff at Carse Point and it split into two as it bounced down into the Sound.

A.N.OTHER: *Did that put an end to your year's survey programme before it had really started?*

T.J.C: It should have done, but surprisingly it didn't! Ali Skinner (who mended televisions as a hobby at home in Scotland) and Steve Wormald were also camped at Carse Point that evening and when we had salvaged the remains of my instrument they discovered that although it had been almost completely destroyed by the fall, by a miracle, its power pack was still functional. We knew that it was the power pack on Paul Bentley's tellurometer that had failed so my GA's, Richy Hesbrook & Henry Blakely immediately harnessed the dogs and set off to recover Paul's faulty tellurometer from Ball Point where he had abandoned it, even though it was now after midnight. They accomplished the return 30 mile trip in under 8 hours. Ali and Steve then successfully exchanged Paul's faulty power pack for the one that had survived the fall, and, mirabile dictu, by evening I had a working tellurometer again and our whole survey programme for the year was saved. It was a nice coincidence that the glacier where we were camped below Carse Point that night was later named, quite by chance, the Skinner Glacier after Ali Skinner.

A.N.OTHER: *So the season was a success after all?*

T.J.C: Yes, although we hadn't linked Graham Land to Palmer Land by the end of the summer, we had connected the new survey stations on the south side of the Wordie Ice Shelf to a line of existing survey stations on the eastern edge of the Sound, and also to an isolated & incomplete set of survey stations that had been established by a party on their way to climb Mount Andrew Jackson some years before. This took us to our furthest south at 72°S.

A.N.OTHER: *And what did you do in your second summer?*

T.J.C: In the second summer we found, as we had the previous year, that you only had to mention the "Cross-Wordie lines" for some disaster to befall you. We had had a good journey south and were ready in position to measure the first Cross-Wordie line when our fellow surveyors, Sledge Charlie, on the other side of the Wordie radioed us to say that they had just lost all their survey equipment when it was blown away in a violent katabatic wind on the Harriet Glacier. They'd lost tellurometer, theodolite, signalling lamp and generator. Everything - equipment worth at least £30,000 today's (2017) money.

A.N.OTHER: *How on earth did you continue with your survey program after that?*

T.J.C: Good question. How did we? Because this was just the first of many disasters and setbacks that now befell us and it would be nearly three months before the planes would be back from Canada to help us. Fortunately we had flown a spare tellurometer down to Fossil Bluff the previous autumn just in case there was such an emergency and, very luckily, Ian Rose and Martin Pearson were able to lend us a theodolite, and they very kindly brought this and the tellurometer up to Ball Point, travelling over a hundred miles overnight to do it. This still involved us in a massive detour to collect the gear but it allowed us to make "a virtue of a necessity" and we were able to measure an important line from Alexander Island across the George VIth Sound to the mainland, while escorting Martin and Ian's skidoos through some dodgy crevasses into Alexander Island to do some glaciology. After this Sledge Charlie left to return across the Wordie.

A few days later, when we assumed that Sledge Charlie were already back crossing the ice shelf, we were horrified to meet them returning south. Their radio had broken and they were wrongly thinking that they could get a replacement from Fossil Bluff which was at least a week's journey further south. By chance Paul Burton was travelling with us and with considerable ingenuity he managed to make an Allen key to open their radio and then re-wired it, thereby saving our whole survey programme. It was a nice coincidence that Paul Burton, who saved our second year's survey programme, came from the same village in Yorkshire as Steve Wormald who, with Ali Skinner, had saved our first year's programme.

Anyway, we then escorted Sledge Charlie back to the Wordie before moving to our station by the Spires. But this was not the end of our woes for while Sledge Charlie was re-crossing the ice shelf the two Pauls both dropped their sledges into crevasses, sustaining some significant physical injuries to themselves which delayed them further. We in Sledge Oscar had some problems too and my diary has a list of about a dozen incidents that threatened the whole Cross-Wordie operation. In spite of all this, when both teams did finally get into position, we measured the three 50 mile lines in a period of less than a week! Although Sledge Charlie no longer had a signalling lamp, I could see their heliograph 50 miles away quite clearly, and on one occasion with my naked eyes. The 40 mile long by 15 mile wide Wordie Ice Shelf no longer exists! It went out to sea a few years ago and the place is now called "Wordie Bay". Had that been the case in 1971, linking Graham Land and Palmer Land might have been even more difficult. Once the Cross-Wordie lines were

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cracked, things went well and by Christmas, to everyone's surprise not least our own, the Stonington to Fossil Bluff link was complete.

A.N.OTHER: *If you completed the Stonington to Fossil Bluff link by Christmas 1971 how did you fill in the remaining time you had in the field?*

T.J.C: We had come increasingly aware that there was another, almost equally important survey problem that needed solved, which was to extend our existing survey over the Palmer Land icecap into the unsurveyed mountains of East Palmer Land. In our previous year's official survey report it had said that this would be impossible because the mountains on the east could not be seen over the top of the central ice cap from the survey stations on the west, and that in these latitudes there were no inter-visible rock exposures on which intermediate stations could be established. During the winter of 1971 I began to question this statement as I discovered three independent pieces of historical evidence that suggested that there might be a small isolated exposure of rock out in the middle of the ice cap that could be visible from both sides of the plateau. One of these bits of evidence was a distant aerial photograph taken by Finne Ronne from over Alexander Island about 30 years previously. We called this hypothetical rock outcrop "Coromandel" after John Master's novel of the same name in which the hero learns of a strange place in the east from a map of dubious validity. If Coromandel existed then perhaps we could measure a tellurometer line across the plateau after all. Our remaining time that summer was spent on solving the problem as described in an article 'The Coromandel Journey' published in the May 2017 (mag No 77) edition of the BAS Club Magazine. We were still measuring the last theodolite angles on this scheme when the twin 'Otter' arrived at our camp to take us back to Stonington.

A.N.OTHER: *What happened when you left your base for the last time?*

T.J.C: I left the RRS Bransfield at Punta Arenas and travelled overland through South America rejoining the same vessel at Montevideo. Back in the UK I went to the Directorate of Surveys for a few months working on our survey results. Then I returned to my old job as a bridge engineer, punctuated with climbing trips to Greenland, Alaska and the Caucasus and treks to the Tien Shan mountains in Central Asia and the Himalayas. I was involved with BAS work for several years on and off, however, even after I left BAS, plotting maps, and dealing with nomenclature issues. I have a file an inch thick from the Foreign Office and my last letter from them is dated March 1977 – 5 years after I left Stonington.

A.N.OTHER: *How accurate was your survey?*

T.J.C: When computed back in London, the closed loop from Stonington to Fossil Bluff and back to Stonington which was about 1000 km long and consisted of some 40 tellurometer lines and theodolite angles, closed, almost unbelievably, to an accuracy of one metre. There had been one problem though: when I was working back at the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS) the cartographer who was computing the traverse came to me to say that the computer had shown that a theodolite error had been made somewhere on the loop and that, although there was enough information to complete the computation if he knew where the error had been made, at present there were two possible alternative solutions, Option A and Option B. I then remembered that, almost as a joke, I had once measured a theodolite angle from our station on Mt Edgell to a cairn which we had built the previous winter on Butson Ridge near Stonington which was, incredibly, 105 miles away! When the cartographer put this angle into his computation he found that, based on Option B, the angle that I had measured was accurate to one second of arc – that is equivalent to the width of a pencil at a mile distance! This solved his problem and allowed the computation of the traverse to be completed.

A.N.OTHER: *And how accurate were your maps?*

T.J.C: The sketch maps that we made before doing the survey were based mainly on various lines of uncontrolled oblique aerial photographs and plane table maps made by the geologists and were, as one might expect, not particularly accurate. But once the positions of all the survey stations and intersected peaks had been calculated and plotted it was not really possible to detect any significant inaccuracies in the final map. About a year after I had returned to the UK, Charles Swithinbank asked me to come up to Cambridge to identify features that we had surveyed on a set of satellite photos that he had just received. These were I think the first satellite photos of Palmer Land that had ever been taken. He told me that

- (a) the satellite photos had been taken digitally and obliquely, not vertically.
- (b) the computer on board the satellite had then calculated what the readings would have been if the "photographs" had been taken vertically and
- (c) that the satellite then orbited half way round the earth and radioed the details down to some base in Greenland where the first satellite photos were printed.

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Neither of us, therefore, had much confidence in the accuracy of the photos but when we identified and marked the positions of our survey stations on them and overlaid them with our map, all the positions tied up almost exactly. There and then we both realised that this was the swansong of conventional surveying and that within a year or two it would no longer be necessary to tack backwards and forwards across Ice shelves or lug tellurometers & heavy batteries up to the top of high mountains. A comparison of our 1973 hand-drawn map of part of West Palmer Land and a 2010 Google Earth Satellite photograph of the same area demonstrates this. It also pleasingly confirms the accuracy of our hand-drawn map.

A.N.OTHER: When you were plotting your map, did you have to get involved with the Antarctic Place Names Committee?

T.J.C: Yes, very much so. The place names issue was a bit of a sore point. Geologists and Geophysicists as well as Surveyors had obviously needed to name features related to their work and wanted these names to become official, but this hadn't become an issue until the completion of the Stonington to Fossil Bluff survey link allowed us to plot the first comprehensive map of the features of West Palmer Land. Although there were some great Fids' names like "Leviathan" and "The Cenotaph", I knew there were going to be difficulties getting any names agreed by the Antarctic Place Names Committee (APNC). Brian Roberts of BGLE fame told me bluntly that we should not have named any features, certainly not in reports anyway.

Initially I ignored this comment and my first submission to the Foreign Office included all the names Fids had been using in West Palmer Land, because I knew that was what Fids wanted. Geoffrey Hattersley Smith of the Foreign Office then explained to me that one of the problems with the APNC was the fact that there was a significant American involvement and the Americans wanted the names of Americans to be included in the agreed list of place names. John Heap (also of the Foreign Office) also pointed out to me, quite rightly, that the many of the names in my submission were an "incongruous mixture of saints and Victorian Politicians". He was referring to names like "St Valentines" and "Peel Ridge", and he therefore asked me if I could submit a proposal which replaced these with an "integrated system" of names.

As there were so many names this could have been a problem but, when I was in Tasmania and faced with a similar situation, I had devised a nomenclature system for a range of unnamed mountains based on the names of stars and constellations, and this was well received and ultimately accepted by the official Nomenclature Board there. So I thought I would try the same thing here and Brian Roberts accepted this reluctantly, saying he would get it checked by a colleague who knew something about stars, implying somewhat rudely that I didn't. In the end this naming system was accepted, not exactly as I had proposed, but I thought it was adequate and a lot better than having Palmer Land littered with the names of non-entities from static American bases or from the purlieu of the Foreign Office. In winter at least, the skies of Antarctica are brilliant with stars and the naming system based on the constellations seems quite appropriate and in sympathy with the area, certainly more so than the system based on classical musical composers that was accepted for names on Alexander Island.

Rod Pashley had previously told me that, when in a windy area, he and Gwyn Jones had named features after the winds and this idea was accepted which is why we now have some official names like "Mistral Ridge", "Pampero Pass", "Zephyr Glacier" and "The Towers of Zonda".

Like other Fids I very much regret the loss of so many of the names that were part of our sledging experience and, even now, I deliberately avoid using the new names or even finding out what they are. For me Coromandel and Pimpernel are still Coromandel and Pimpernel, even if they are officially called Smith Hill and Jones Ridge or something equally prosaic. There was a reason and a story behind the names which we originally gave them and, as they may never be visited again, at least until climate changes forces the whole world to go and live in Antarctica. They will forever remain Coromandel and Pimpernel as far as I am concerned.

I think BAS supplied the committee with names of some personnel by BAS as the APNC did name a number of features after Fids, but only ones who were scientists or base commanders, not after dog team drivers or GAs which I think is sad. I once told Drummy Small that I had named a small ice rift on the Wordie after him. "Oh Aye" he said, "What's it called?" I said: "It's called the small ice rift!"

A.N.OTHER: And what did you get out of your time with BAS?

T.J.C: It was an enjoyable and exciting experience which enriched the rest of my life; one I wouldn't have missed for the world!

Members Websites

I HAVE HAD A GOOD RESPONSE FOR MEMBERS WEBSITES AND A FEW HAVE BEEN ADDED INTO THE MAGAZINE. I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE THAT COULD BE ADDED SO ANY MEMBER WHO HAS A WEBSITE PLEASE SEND ME NAME; WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME AND THREE OR FOUR LINES OF BRIEF DESCRIPTION PLUS PHOTO AND CAPTION. THIS WILL BE A PERMANENT ENTRY IN THE MAGAZINE



Keith J Gainey Halley Bay 1967 and 1968

www.pengwinge.com

The website is in the form of a journey from Southampton departing October 1966, to Halley Bay and return in January 1969. Contains the journey as slideshows, Includes some history of Halley

Folk Club Saudi Arabia 1974



Michael Warr -Deception Island 1964 and Adelaide Island 1966

www.antarcticmemoriespublishing.com

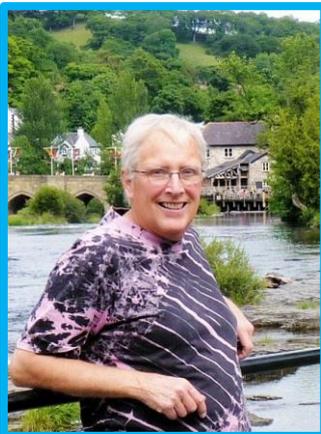
Contains history of Michael and a Book of his experiences down South "South of Sixty" - Will soon be adding another book (fictional) "Murder in the Antarctic"

Yalour Island and I - Dec 2007

Graham Hart Halley Bay 1994 and 1995

www.ilikecider.com/antarctica

Graham has posted a few pictures taken from his time there, which are available for viewing as a photo gallery (There is one picture from Signy - experts will be able to spot it). In time, he will post even more pictures & text.



Mike Skidmore South Georgia 1966 & 69; Halley Bay 1967 and 1968

www.antarctic-paintings.com Penguins, Huskies, Ships, Mountains and Glaciers

PAINTINGS of ANTARCTIC SCENES The web site is a my on-line gallery of representational scenes of Antarctica, its wild life, exploration and human exploration. It is constantly being updated with new work. It also includes my stamp designs for British Antarctic Territory. I have been painting Antarctic scenes and subjects in oils for some 36 years now. You may be interested in viewing my other, non-polar paintings at www.mikes-paintings.co.uk

Llangollen July 2012



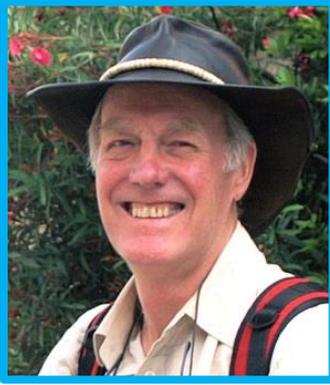
Andy Smith Halley Bay 1971

www.zfids.org.uk

Andy Smith provides a website ----Z-fids: Halley Bay, 1956-present. It contains a mass of information about the base, though more contributions are always welcome. There are pictures of and stories about Halley over the nearly 60 years since it was established by the Royal Society International Geophysical Year Expedition in 1956. Each year's wintering party is listed and a group photo provided, together with events that happened then, and links to any relevant websites or blogs.

BAS HQ ID picture 2001

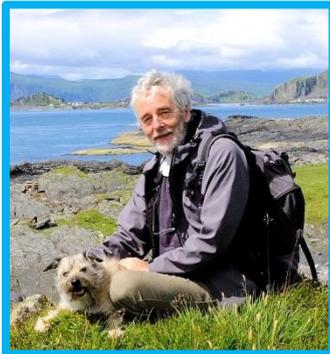
Members Websites



Peter Noble Halley Bay 1967 and 1968

www.peternobletalks.co.uk is a pot-pouri of writings that perhaps sum up Peter better than a CV. There are pages dedicated to his book "Dog Days on Ice", includes photos; his Antarctic poems and some observations on faith & religion. He also lists a number of illustrated lectures he presents in aid of charity.

Venice 2010



James Fenton Sygny 1976

www.james-hc-fenton.eu This is a repository of various things I have done over the years: a *pot-pourri* of essays, stories, books, music and pictures. I do run a small environmental consultancy in Scotland, so the website also tells people about this. If you know where to look, there are also various cartoon pages of penguins hidden about the site. See <http://www.james-hc-fenton.eu/index.html> I have recently added a blog, which gives my take on various nature conservation issues in Scotland. See <http://www.james-hc-fenton.eu/blog.html>

June 2012



Sue and Mark Hamilton The Fan Hitch

www.thefanhitch.org The focus of *The Fan Hitch*, launched in 1998, is on the aboriginal landrace Inuit Sled Dog. It has since evolved from a stand-alone quarterly (December, March, June, September) online publication to become the foundation of a comprehensive, broadly informational website.

Out on the Ice in the Canadian high Arctic

Topics revealed by visiting the [Index of Articles by Subject](#) include: Inuit culture and traditions, health and behavior; scientific research; exploration, adventure and history; film, book and product reviews; tips, poetry and recipes. Many of the over [300 contributors](#) have been FIDS/BAS Doggy Men. Your submissions, to be shared with our worldwide readership, are eagerly sought and encouraged. Writing guidelines are "come as you are" relaxed and informal. Metric measurements and words ending in "_ _our" are most welcome!-- Talk to us! mail@thefanhitch.org or qimmiq@snet.net



Ashley Perrin Boating Officer KEP and Rothera

www.antarcticpilot.com is a website for Ashley Perrin's (ex boating officer at KEP and Rothera) business taking large private vessels on expeditions in the Patagonia Canals, Falklands, South Georgia and Antarctic Peninsula. Eventually her blog from time with BAS will be integrated into this site.

There are more members with their own website – please send yours with a photo of yourself, taken at any time in your life, and 5 to 6 lines of a brief description

BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY NEWS

ANTARCTICA – A UNIQUE PLACE IN THE WORLD

from Professor Jane Francis



Where would you find more than 50 nations discussing environmental protection of a whole continent and agreeing to work together peacefully? This scenario seems unlikely in this day and age but this is what happened at the recent Antarctic Treaty Meeting in China in May.

Topics of debate this year included bioprospecting, the risks posed by non-governmental visitors to Antarctica, and climate change. The UK led a new focus on science and its relevance to policy in Working Group 2, attended by government officials, lawyers, and national programme operators.

Tim Naish, Professor at the Antarctic Research Centre in Wellington NZ, enlightened all with his accessible SCAR lecture on the impact of the Paris Agreement on Antarctica. His message was that the Paris target of +2°C was probably at the threshold of major losses of Antarctic ice; above that, the planet will inevitably feel the impact of melting ice sheets and an increase in global sea level.

It's inspiring to see that, despite some robust discussions, the meeting ended with 53 nations agreeing by consensus to work peacefully on, as our Chinese hosts described it, this "white treasure at the end of the world"

WOMAN-HAULING AT ROTHERA

by Jenny Douglas

The first ever all-female hauling winter trip set out from Rothera on 30th April (2017). The team of Julie Baum (Field Guide), Zoe Waring (Marine Assistant) and Jenny Douglas (Doctor) planned on hauling to the base of Tom of the Stokes Range, and then ski mountaineering across to Sighing Peak – a total distance of 40km. The trip started well with excellent weather, snow conditions and for some reason choruses of 'Don't go breaking my heart' by Elton John being sung.

We reached our camp with relative ease. The 70ish kg pulks were not too much of a burden and the views made it all the more special. There is something very Antarctic about doing a trip with only what you can carry with you, along with the only noise being the shuffle of your skis in the snow (and the constant singing of your team mates).

The next 24 hours were spent mainly in the tent with heavy snow falling all around us, although we did venture out long enough to build a snow woman called Touloula. The journey to Sighing Peak was made incredibly difficult by all the new fluffy white stuff that had fallen.

Julie spent the day in a minimum of knee-deep snow even on skis, setting a trail around some enormous crevasses for us to safely follow. We almost made it to the top of Sighing Peak but the snow had slowed our progress and we just ran out of time. We then had some 40 knot winds the next day which blew most of the snow away but left large sastrugi. The way back, which felt mainly up hill, was much harder work, lumping the pulks over the sastrugi back to Rothera.

Back on station we were three tired but happy ladies, having had an awesome adventure.



SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE --- APRIL 2017

by Steve Roberts

Past penguin colony responses to explosive volcanism on the Antarctic Peninsula

By studying penguin guano, volcanic ash and penguin bones preserved in lake sediments from Ardley Island in the South Shetland Islands, this paper showed that one of the largest colonies of gentoo penguins in Antarctica today (c. 5,000 breeding pairs) repeatedly suffered dramatic population crashes following large volcanic eruptions from the nearby Deception Island over the last c. 7,000 years.

Using an 8,500-year-long sediment core extracted from Ardley Lake, we determined that the first sustained penguin colony was established around the lake about 6,700 years ago, pre-dating previous sub-fossil evidence of Peninsula-wide occupation by about 1,000 years. Our analyses showed that the colony experienced five population peaks, with its population maximum occurring 4,000-3,000 years ago during a period of warmer regional climate and reduced land and sea ice.

However, large eruptions from Deception Island had a far greater impact on the colony than changes in temperature or ice cover. A colony of similar size today was almost completely wiped out after an exceptionally large eruption c. 5,500-5,000 years ago and by two large eruptions thereafter. On average, it took ~500 years for the colony to fully re-establish itself after each eruption. The techniques developed in this study can be used elsewhere in Antarctica to estimate past changes in colony size and provide a long-term perspective on the impact of modern-day climate change on penguin colonies.

BI LEOPARD SEALS: INTRODUCING DOT

by John Dickens

Leopard seal work at Bird Island has been ongoing for 34 years now. What started off as general observations and counts has turned into a detailed study looking at the population, genetics, diet and distribution of the animals that visit the island.



Leopard Seals at BI are identified by their unique spot pattern

Since 2005 individual leopard seals have been catalogued using photo-identification of their unique spot patterns and this is now a major component of the long-term monitoring programme. Some animals visit the island briefly and are never seen again, others are regular visitors who come back year after year.

Individuals that are identified are allocated identification numbers and those that are seen frequently are named. There is no reason behind the naming system with some being named after people or places, others after physical characteristics or behaviours, and a few at random.

The current season has started well, with just short of 100 sightings of at least 14 identified animals since the beginning of May. We've seen the return of some familiar faces and have added a few new animals to the database.



One of the most frequently seen leopard seals is a new adult female with a distinctive beauty spot on her muzzle, her name was immediately obvious – Dot. She has been seen almost every day since 4th May and frequently naps on the beach in front of the station.

Dot has been a frequent visitor

We've grown fond of Dot's company and hope she sticks around for the rest of the season!

HUGE LARSEN C ICEBERG CALVES by Linda Clapper

After months of 'hanging by a thread' a vast iceberg the size of Norfolk has finally broken off the Larsen C Ice Shelf. At more than 6,000km² in area, the new iceberg represents more than 10% of the ice shelf and sits 30m above the water.

BAS scientists and international researchers now have the opportunity to study the stability of the remaining ice shelf, as well as understanding how biological communities might occupy the newly-exposed ocean and underlying seabed areas.

The rift in the ice shelf



ANTARCTIC INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNISATION – BIRD ISLAND

by Graham Nightingale



Bird Island Research Station

A £3.1M target cost construction contract for the works at Bird Island was agreed with our Construction Partner BAM on 6th July. The BAS/BAM team, with support from our Technical Advisors Ramboll, are currently engaged in ensuring that all elements are in place to ensure that construction starts in February 2018, with completion scheduled for June 2018.

The programme is very tight with all construction materials, plant, logistics and support infrastructure needing to be sourced, procured and delivered to meet the December shipping deadline from The Falkland Islands. This has required the Core Team to work

in close co-operation with the Operations, Logistics and Environment teams, as well as external suppliers.

The scope of the work is to construct a new Beck House in a similar location to the existing structure, between Prince House and the Generator Shed. It will be constructed from prefabricated modular elements and Top Housing have been sub-contracted to supply these elements. Fabrication is due to start in early September with delivery to the UK in November. Other subcontractors are



undertaking the foundation and mechanical and electrical works.

In addition to Beck House, the fuel farm will also be increased in size to accommodate the reduction in relief visits from RRS *Sir David Attenborough*. The existing scaffold jetty may be extended to facilitate the deeper draft of the larger tender vessel.

The BAM construction team has been selected and will attend Girton Pre-deployment Training in September as part of their preparation to be stationed at Bird Island for approximately five months. Joe Corner (jorn@bas.ac.uk) is the BAS Project

Manager and can be contacted on extension 1634 if you have any questions.



PICTURES FROM BAS ARCHIVES#64

by Jo Rae

These relics from South Georgia's industrial past are trypots. 'Trying-out' is the term used for boiling up seal or whale blubber to express the oil. It was carried out in large cast iron pots mounted in a brick tryworks (furnace). Seal oil was a valuable commodity, used as lamp fuel, lubricants, cooking oil and a constituent of soap.

Sealing activities (mainly British and U.S.) on the island had three marked peaks: 1786-1802, 1814-23 and 1869-1913. It continued until 1965 in association with shore-based whaling at Grytviken, where a British sealing inspector was employed by the Government.

The South Georgia Government has recently set up a number of projects to survey heritage sites on the island. Bob Burton, a member of the Heritage Advisory Panel, and an ex-Fid himself, is setting up an archaeological survey of sealers' sites for the South Georgia Heritage Trust and is logging all records of sealers' relics, especially trypots. As part of that research he has been trawling the BAS Archives.

If you have photographs or notes of any sealing relics please contact Bob using rvburton@ntlworld.com.



Sealers' trypots, Elsehul, South Georgia. Taken by Nigel Bonner, late 1980s [Ref G9/Review/1.12a/12]

PICTURES FROM BAS ARCHIVES#65 By Bev Ager



The physical collections at BAS include a number of works of art that have either been gifted or are on long-term loan. This includes a fibreglass bust of Sir Vivian Fuchs in classic collar-turned-up pose, sculpted in 1957. According to one source he gave his last sitting two days before sailing on the *Theron* for the Weddell Sea with the Advance Party of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

The bust was originally given to BAS in 1977 for display in the new (old) reception, and is currently in the Archives Office. The bronze version is in the Antarctic Gallery at Canterbury Museum in Christchurch, keeping company with many other famous polar explorers. The sculptor, Kathleen Parbury, is best known for her religious works, most notably the Statue of Saint Aidan on Lindisfarne.

(Sir Vivian Fuchs sculptured in 1957 by Kathleen Parbury)

BAS SCIENCE FUNDING SUCCESSES By Ana Pereira O'Callaghan

NERC Urgency Grants allow scientists to respond rapidly to unexpected and transient events affecting the environment. A BAS team, led by Katrin Linse and Phil Trathan, has successfully secured such a grant to investigate the newly-exposed marine ecosystem, hidden for up to 120,000 years, accessible due to the calving of the Larsen C Ice Shelf A68 iceberg. A second successful Urgency Grant, including Alex Brisbourne's glacier geophysics expertise, will explore the short-term evolution of an ice shelf in the aftermath of the Larsen iceberg calving event. BAS Operations Group will support both projects.

BAS Operations Group has also helped secure funds for the preparation stage of a future ESA satellite mission (CryoSat), to understand current space-based measurements of cryosphere changes. A BAS aircraft will be equipped with radar and lidar to investigate radar penetration in snow and firn. Congratulations to all involved.

The recently published H2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 has funding opportunities for the next two years. These include: European Research Council (ERC), Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, Research Infrastructures, and Societal Challenges. Topics cover: marine, water research, climate action, and environment.

Updates relevant to BAS are in the monthly Grants Bulletin (intranet and Icebreaker).

CAPT SCOTT MEMORIAL HELP by Jamie Oliver



This season's GA at Signy, Rob Curtis, is trying to raise £500 for the repair of the Captain Scott memorial in Cardiff Bay.

Capt Scott and his crew sailed from Cardiff dock in 1910 but the memorial is in desperate need of repair following years of weather and neglect.

Rob will ride his scooter to the South Pole (a pub in southern Ireland!).

More info at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/captainscottmemorial

SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE August 2017 by Claus Dieter Hillenbrand

West Antarctic Ice Sheet retreat driven by Holocene warm water incursions

Wind-driven incursions of warm, deep water forced the retreat of West Antarctic glaciers from the end of the last ice age until 7,500 years ago and since the 1940s. An international team of researchers investigated several marine sediment cores recovered in front of Pine Island and Thwaites Glaciers in the Amundsen Sea. They analysed the chemical composition of tiny shells built by organisms that had lived in the water column and at the sea bottom before their shells became embedded in the seafloor sediments.

The chemical composition of the shells acted as a 'fingerprint' of the waters, in which the shells were formed. The reconstructions showed that warm, deep water flooded Pine Island Bay at the end of the last ice age and forced West Antarctic Ice Sheet retreat from the shelf during that time.

The incursions decreased at about 7,500 years ago, when the belt of westerly winds driving the deep water onto the shelf shifted northwards. The data also revealed that a southward shift in the position of the westerly winds during the 1940s caused renewed upwelling of warm deep water onto the shelf, which has continued ever since and is responsible for the recent ice loss observed in the Amundsen Sea sector.

The new findings not only expand the understanding of ice sheet-ocean interactions but also give confidence in the current generation of ice-sheet models that are used to forecast future ice loss from Antarctica and the resulting sea-level rise.

ANTARCTIC INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNISATION – ROTHERA

by Graham Nightingale

Work is progressing with the design phase for the Rothera wharf replacement project. Our construction partners BAM Nuttall are utilising a frame-construction technique with preassembled frame sections being used to form the wharf structure which is then filled with rock. The wharf construction will take place over two seasons with completion in 2019/20.



Dismantling of the existing wharf and construction of the new one will commence in the 2018/19 season. The programme of works also includes quarrying and blasting at the southern end of Rothera Point to provide fill material for the new wharf.

(Installation of the back frames Rothera Wharf)

The existing wharf will be dismantled back to the mid-wall section and most of the fill material removed. A back frame will then be installed in sections, using a crane, against the rear wall of the existing

wharf and across the mid-wall section. Jacking frames will be used to ensure the frame sections are level. Front frame sections will then be installed using locating guides and locked with pins to the back frame. Sheet piles are attached to the front face and the area in-filled with rock to form the completed structure. This method means that tie rods are not required and results in a reduction in time required for the construction.

Other work to be undertaken includes stabilisation of the southern end of the runway and Honeybucket Cove. The works will have a significant impact on operational and science activities at Rothera and a Construction Impact Method Statement document is being prepared.

Further information is available on the BAS website: www.bas.ac.uk/team/operational-teams/operationaldelivery/infrastructure-projectmanagement-teams.

PICTURES FROM BAS ARCHIVES#66

by Ieuan Hopkins

This impressive cairn was constructed 60 years ago by the geologist Nigel Proctor during a spring geological journey that he and Percy Guyver undertook out of Horseshoe Island (Base Y) in September and October 1957. The journey totalled 223¾ sledge miles, with an additional 43 miles on ski and foot, and included Day Island, the Eastern edge of Adelaide Island and the Dion Islands.

The cairn took several days to build and was noted at the time as being



on the large side – a point picked up a month later by John Rothera (pictured standing next to it), when he used it as a trig point as part of his spring survey journey out of Blaiklock Refuge. The cairn, he commented, “was so large... that the theodolite had to be stood at the side in order to avoid dismantling it. As the cairn was also hollow the theodolite could not be stood on top”. The cairn stands in ASPA (129) on Rothera Point and, along with the memorials near it, has been included in the heritage assessment ready for the redevelopment of the station. You can hear John Rothera talk about his work on the British Antarctic Oral History website.

ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST NEWS

CONSERVING THE HERITAGE OF MARGUERITE BAY



Camilla Nichol, Chief Executive, UK Antarctic Heritage Trust

UK Antarctic Heritage Trust's work will ensure that the legacy of the pioneers of Antarctic science and exploration is preserved in perpetuity to be enjoyed and valued by a global audience.

This is at the heart of everything we do at the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT). Whether it is the practical care of six historic sites on the Antarctic Peninsula, or celebrating and conserving Antarctic heritage closer to home, our goal is to ensure those stories are told long into the future.

The most recognisable work we do at UKAHT is our seasonal operation at Port Lockroy. Running this historic site as a visitor attraction, museum and post office is a vital part of our work.

Having a team of four on site for the Austral summer to undertake conservation work and welcome visitors on tourist vessels is fundamental for raising the profile and telling the story of Antarctic endeavour on the Peninsula as well a critical source of income for the Trust. It is perhaps worth noting that UKAHT doesn't receive regular government or other funding; all our income is raised ourselves through donations, memberships and, of course, the visitors to Port Lockroy.

Port Lockroy is not our only conservation consideration. UKAHT cares for six historic sites (HSMs) on the Antarctic Peninsula and this is our most time-consuming, costly and challenging endeavour.

The six sites; Base A: Port Lockroy, Damoy Hut, Base F: Wordie House, Base E: Stonington, Base W: Detaille and Base Y: Horseshoe all demand a high level of monitoring, care and maintenance to ensure their survival in this harshest of environments.

Location of the six historic sites in UKAHT care

An approach to conservation

Port Lockroy is the most straightforward; comprehensively restored to its 1950s heyday in the 1990s and occupied every summer since, it is well monitored and maintained and its care is part of the annual routine. The other five sites, which are unoccupied and visited less frequently by both staff and visitors need more consideration and a slightly different approach.

The starting principle for these sites is of conservation rather than restoration. This means preserving what we find in order to stabilise the structures and artefacts and slow down further deterioration. Arguably this takes more effort than restoring them back to 'factory condition' as it involves gaining a thorough understanding of the structures, the environment and the behaviour of materials in that environment, so we can make better decisions on their ongoing care.





Base A, Port Lockroy restored to its 1950s glory

Once this is in place then a programme of repair: minimal intervention to tackle defects, preserving as much of the historic fabric as possible using techniques and materials as close to the originals as practicable. Then regular monitoring will enable us to understand the rate of change and what further interventions we may need to make.

This might seem a zealous approach and perhaps unnecessarily complicated given the types of materials and the nature of the buildings in hand – surely a job lot of marine ply, some

bituminous felt, a bag of nails and some modern sealant could be put to effective use? Indeed that would be true, but the incremental replacement of original materials and techniques with modern equivalents would very quickly destroy the character and distinctiveness of the historic site.

How many times have we seen the jarring installation of uPVC windows or clumsily applied concrete render to historic properties in the UK? By taking the time and effort to analyse the buildings and structures and how they are behaving in their environment and then making choices around materials and physical interventions, which will enable them to perform better with minimal visual impact, we can ensure these sites will endure to tell their stories to new generations.

This, of course, is tempered by the constraints of cost, technological changes and environmental impact and the consistent measure for any decision is against the significance of the element in question and the risk it is under.

A new programme

In 2014 we took on responsibility for the care of Base Y on Horseshoe Island and Base E on Stonington Island. This gave us the perfect opportunity to reboot our conservation programme and put our renewed conservation philosophies into practice.

In the build up to our first field season on site at Horseshoe we built a network of partners, stakeholders and advisors to assist us in planning for the detailed survey of the site. Drawing on expertise from major national heritage bodies, building experts, conservators, curators, historians, archivists and architects we set about developing an evidence-based programme of conservation.

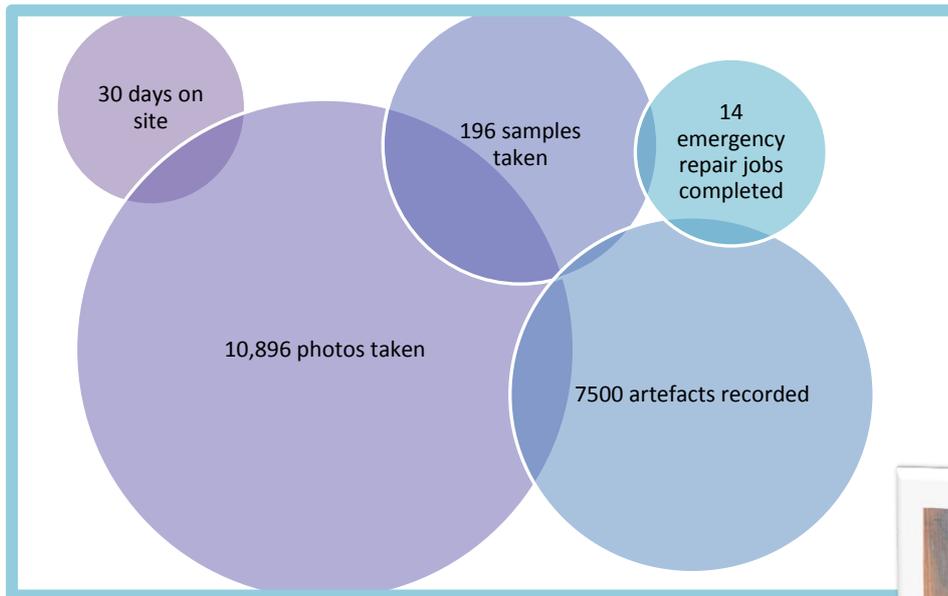
In January 2017 we deployed a team of four to Base Y to spend four weeks gathering data on the site and making emergency repairs. Travelling on HMS *Protector* the team arrived along with four tonnes of equipment and supplies and were grateful for the able assistance of the team of Royal Marines to help transport those four tonnes by hand over a kilometre of snow, ice and rock.

The planning team had created a schedule of tasks, prepared detailed architectural drawings and drawn a wealth of information from the British Antarctic Survey Archives to enable the team to schedule the site in detail.

The tasks included:

- Measured survey to update the drawings
- Complete detailed descriptions of the various elements of the site, buildings and structures to capture a wealth of information about their condition and construction
- Take samples of various materials (timber, paint, hardware, concrete, felt for further analysis
- Condition survey and inventory of all the artefacts on site
- Make recommendations for future repairs or investigations
- Photogrammetric image capture for the buildings on site
- Carry out any required emergency repairs

The team did magnificently, carrying out everything that was asked of them and returning some impressive stats from their short time on site:



Sampling materials for analysis

Sampling the materials was an important task and whilst we have good information from the archives on exactly what was used, the analysis of samples from key locations with defects can tell us more about how the materials are behaving as well as any safety considerations (lead, asbestos etc.).

The extraordinary number of photographs was driven by both the artefact survey – every artefact now has an image, and the photogrammetry – a systematic set of geolocated images which can be used to create a 3D model and point cloud. The photogrammetry has been a revelation.

The resolution of the resulting model is such that the grain of the wood can be studied and because there is location data we can actually take pretty accurate measurements of features from the model. This means that we will be able to visit the site for additional information without having to visit! Also once we also have internal detail, we will be able to create an interactive model for people to virtually visit and find out more about the site.

This was a test year, to trial the methodologies and prove the system. We only did the exterior, but

the results have been impressive considering how relatively low-tech it was. This coming year we will have a member of the BAS MAGIC team with us to perfect the system.

Initial low- resolution point cloud model of Base Y.]

Another crucial aspect of work was the emergency repairs. It may be 2 or more years before a team returns for a field season, so it was critically important that those elements of the site exposed to the elements were left in a condition able to withstand whatever conditions that lay ahead.



ANTARCTIC NEWS

Covering the small buildings, securing structures and replacing glass and shutters means that they were left well-covered and weathertight, so that they might not suffer any further loss over the coming winters. Small repairs can make a big difference – the battle to keep the snow and therefore water out is a big one and our efforts this season were directed at protecting what is there now, so that when the team returns to undertake the bigger programme of conservation and repairs, we have a good platform to start from.



The emergency hut before and after weatherproofing repairs

Whilst the team was onsite they were able to reopen the post office at Horseshoe for the first time in decades. They saw six visiting cruise ships during their time on site and met just short of 1,000 visitors. Having a team onsite when tourists visit is an incredibly useful way to engage people with our work. We find it's not just the conservation, keeping these traditions alive, like the post office, and animating the site and its stories for visitors and for those back home is just as effective and engaging.



The Horseshoe postmark

Another angle to this is how we tell the stories of the life of the base. During this season we tried a new programme: called #HorseshoeDiaries.

We wanted to tell the story of the Base in the past and in the present, in real time.

We were incredibly grateful to have been able to work with Petra Searle and Mike Fleet on the digitisation of former Base Y Commander Derek Searle's diaries and photographs. Petra generously gave us permission to use excerpts from Derek's diaries online.

The team onsite sent us daily dispatches from the Base and we shared those with accompanying excerpts from the same dates in the 1950s. Day by day we published the entries and a story unfolded.

It gained quite a following – we promoted it on Facebook and Twitter and the whole story can be followed on our website and we found people really engaged with it. It is a model we would like very much to repeat in future seasons.

Season 17-18

This coming season we turn our attention to Base E on Stonington Island



Base E, Stonington Island in 2017. © Phil Wickens

In December we are sending a team of seven, for eleven weeks to camp at Stonington and carry out this survey and emergency repairs programme for both Base E and the US East Base. Using all we have learnt at Horseshoe we plan to do the same thing – survey, sample, photograph, record and make emergency repairs. We will also open the Post Office and welcome around seven visiting vessels during that three month period.

E is quite different to that at Horseshoe; it is much bigger, has two storeys, is a different construction, in slightly poorer condition and has fewer artefacts as far as we know. The other area where it differs greatly is the number of former Base E personnel who might be able to help us.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We know there is an awful lot of knowledge out there about the Base at Stonington as well as myriad stories about life on base and out sledging. So this is a plea to all readers who have knowledge, stories, images, memories and even artefacts. With the benefit of your knowledge and experiences we can look after this site and we can tell its story.

By getting involved and sharing with us your knowledge of the site, your opinions, memories, archives, photos and diaries, we can put the stories back into these abandoned sites. We can inspire new audiences with tales of endeavour, exploration and scientific discovery, but we can also tell those human stories of what it was actually like living, working and playing in a remote Antarctic station.

Our aim is to gather a group of former ‘Stoningtonians’ who are willing to get involved, share their views, their knowledge of the Base and their stories to help us care for the site and tell its story.

If you think that could be you, then please get in touch

email info@ukaht.org call 01223 355049 or find us on social media

– we are waiting for your call!

BRITISH ANTARCTIC MONUMENT TRUST

By Rod Rhys Jones

Premiere or Trust film at RGS

South 2015: a Voyage to Remember was premiered at the Royal Geographical Society 14 June 2017 to an audience of about two hundred and fifty. The film premiere followed a reunion lunch of those who went on the 2015 voyage to the Falklands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula at Ognisko, the Polish Club in Exhibition Road. It was attended by sixty including members of families of those we did not return. The film follows the voyage of Antarctic veterans to attend the dedication of the Southern Antarctic Monument in February 2015 in the Falklands and thence to visit the places in the Antarctic Peninsula where those "who lost their lives in Antarctica in pursuit of science to benefit us all" lived, worked and perished. It covers the creation of the Antarctic Memorial in St Paul's Cathedral, the Antarctic Monument at the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge and its Southern counterpart on the waterfront in Stanley, Falkland Islands.

Trust Ambassador Felicity Aston MBE introduced the film by video from Iceland. She celebrated the day in her own way by giving birth to an 8.8lbs boy, now six months old. Her ardour for polar exploration has not dimmed as she is in the midst of organising the Women's Euro-Arabian North Pole Expedition 2017. An international team of women from across Europe and the Middle East will set out to ski the last degree to the North Pole. The core purpose of the expedition is to foster greater dialogue and understanding between women from Western and Arabian cultures and inspire all women to reach beyond the expectation of others and to fulfil their own ultimate life ambition

After the film John Killingbeck spoke movingly about the importance of the film in commemorating those who had lost their lives in Antarctica and the director, Graham Morris, who flew in from New Zealand for the Premiere, was able to answer questions from the audience.

Comments

We have received many comments about the film including the following

A most moving film, gently effective, carrying its messages with dignity but also balance. And – at the same time – revealing the reality of Antarctica. I shall watch it again, and again, I am certain.

Meredith Hooper, Antarctic historian and author

I was thinking back to your efforts to remember those who lost their lives working for the Brits in Antarctica. It could have been any one of us. And this was more so for those of us who worked in the field. Most of us had a number of narrow escapes. So your efforts in leading memorials really was long overdue. And the families and friends of those who died now have some closure, in many cases many years after their loss.

Ivor Morgan, FID Professor Emeritus

We thought it was really splendid, very well put together and brought the whole object of the monuments and cruise to the fore. I would love it if a copy could be in the Falklands - probably to be kept at the Museum, where it could be shown publicly.

Joan Spruce MBE

Again, we who have worked and lived on the Antarctic continent owe you a huge gratitude for what you have achieved.

Two distinctive memorials which will last for centuries. The film was first class. Very moving. Truthful but not sentimental. Well done to Graham Morris and his team

John Killingbeck, FID

The film is not only a reminder for us of the voyage but also a treasure for the families who lost their fine young men.

There were some very beautiful moments. I saw many tear stained faces when the lights went up, ours included

Hilly Reicher

Very moving and evocative.

Alison Baker

Wednesday evening was quite excellent and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely. The film brought back a lot of memories and I was so pleased my son was able to see video footage of Deception Island where his father had spent a year or more. He was fascinated, as were we all, by the wonderful voyage and the work that you had undertaken to ensure its success. The monuments are a great way of remembering so many and must give a lot of comfort to their relatives and friends.

Ann Rowley

We loved the film and it was very moving to see how all relatives reacted and said that it had given a form of closure.

Pia Helena Ormerod

Copies of the film

Copies are available to BAS Club members for £10 (a reduction of £5 on the launch price) This includes postage and packing. Please contact Brian Dorsett-Bailey briand_b@hotmail.co.uk.

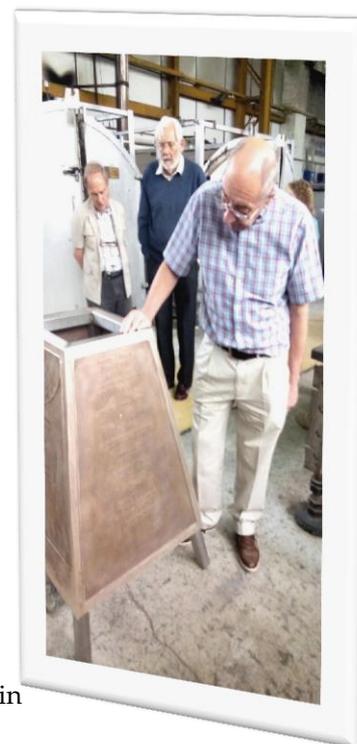
Testing the Southern Monument

The replacement monument for the Falklands has now been completed by the foundry Pangolin. The stainless steel needle has been cast and polished and affixed to a new bronze plinth. Arrangements are being made to set the monument up in the Historic Dockyard Portsmouth next to the statue of Robert Falcon Scott just inside the main gate.

The idea is to expose it for six months to a marine environment in order to test its resistance to corrosion. This is a public area of the dock and anyone will be able to walk in to see it. Although anyone visiting might like to take the many attractions at the museum including the Mary Rose and HMS Victory.

It is hoped to ship the monument out to the Falklands in the Autumn of next year with the help of BAS.

A preview of work on the monument was had by a group of Fids attending the 2017 Annual Meeting at Eastwood Park who visited the Pangolin, the company manufacturing the sculpture. They were shown round the works and introduced to the casting process in the foundry and the intricacies of 3D printing. They were able to see the bronze plinth and also visit a sculpture exhibition before travelling on to Cheltenham to visit the recently refurbished and renamed Wilson Museum.



Maintaining the Northern Monument

Earlier this year, the Trustees decided that the northern part of the Antarctic Monument in the grounds of the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge had suffered the effects of weather and was in need of some repair.

In March it was removed and transported to a site in Kent where it was taken apart, the old finish sanded back to bare wood, gaps and splits cleaned out and filled with resin and tapered oak wedges where required. These were sanded back and it was given three coats of West System epoxy resin which was sanded back to give a key for the varnish. It was then given 6 coats of "Le Tonkinios" varnish, the top coat mixed with Gelomat to give a satin finish. Some slight modifications were carried out to ease the flow of rainwater off the oak.

Whilst at the works, the steel base was removed and transported to the works of Artisan Engineering, where new lifting lugs were added. The base was then recoated, the dedication plaque renewed and a new plaque added, which indicate the connection of the sculpture to its counterpart in Stanley.

The monument was then re-assembled and transported back to Cambridge and re-fixed, at the end of August.

Trustees of the British Antarctic Monument Trust examine the refurbished Antarctic Monument at the SPRI Photo: Trustee Julian Paren.



Memorial Point

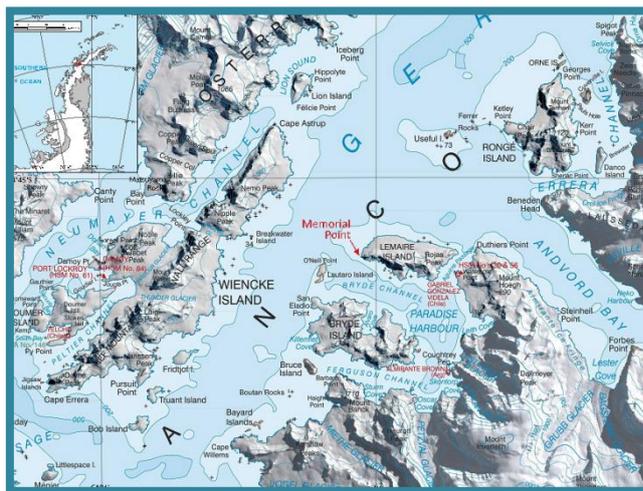
Following initiatives by the Trust the Antarctic Place Names Committee has designated a point on the Western end of Lemaire Island, Gerlache Strait as Memorial Point.

It is a significant navigational feature that does not currently have a UK name, and is a conspicuous feature on the route often taken by ships en route to Port Lockroy.

It is at 64°48'45"S, 63°01'40"W and is named "to commemorate all those British personnel who died whilst working in Antarctica and who have not been commemorated individually."

The name will be added to the British Antarctic Territory Gazetteer and is available for use on all maps, charts and in all publications. The Trust will be promoting the background story to shipping and tour companies working in the Antarctic.

The Trust will continue in its efforts to get all those who lost their lives but have no place named after them in British Antarctic Territory to be so recognized. They are: John Anderson, Robert Atkinson, John Coll, Arthur Farrant, Roger Hargreaves, Ambrose Morgan, Kevin Occlerton, Michael Walker, Graham Whitfield, Dai Wild, and John Wilson. Both Wild and Wilson have features named after them in the Norwegian sector.



Memorial Point is at the very western point of Lemaire Island as it juts into the Gerlache Channel. Map BAS, Photograph Google Earth

BBC Future website

Martha Henriques is researching the deaths of scientists in the Antarctic for an article for BBC Future. BBC Future is an on-line resource which provides more information about science. Its mission statement is "Making you smarter every day." The website states "BBC Future was born because you told us you wanted more in-depth coverage of science, health and technology – so we aim to provide expert analysis and features about the big ideas shaping the world, and the new insights challenging what we think we know about ourselves. You can find it at bbc.co.uk/future.

Martha interviewed Rod Rhys Jones and Brian Dorsett-Bailey in November. Any Fids who would like to contribute to her article should contact her at martha@henriques.co.uk.

Downing College Archives

A research student from Downing College, working at The Scott Polar Research Institute, noticed the much viewed image of Jeremy Bailey talking to an emperor penguin. He mentioned this to the archivist at the college, (where Jeremy was a post graduate student) and subsequently it now appears on the Downing College Archive page on Facebook with a brief entry about him, and a link to our website. <https://www.facebook.com/downingcollegearchives/>

Snippets and Letters

Dear Keith

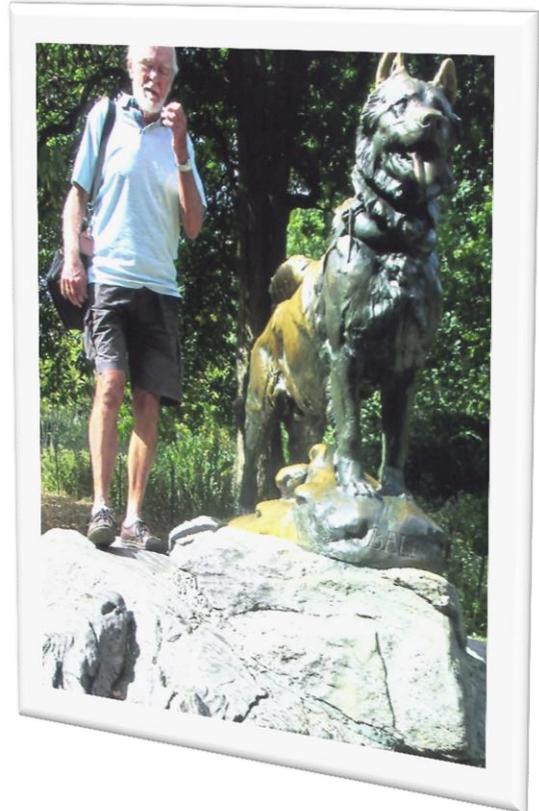
Some while ago, whilst browsing books in my favourite charity shop, I came across a book about a heroic dog sledging trip . It is set in the winter of 1924 / 25 and covers a trip of 674 miles in North Alaska.

The reason for the trip was to get a serum to Nome where an epidemic of Diphtheria had broken out. At that time of the year the sea was frozen so no ships could get in to Nome and aircraft were not sophisticated enough to make the flight.

The main mushers are Gunner Kaasen and Edgar Nollener and their dog teams led by Balto and Togo.

It is a tale of amazing dog driving and I am sure the "Doggy Men" would find it a great read. The book is called "The Cruellest Miles " by Gay Salisbury and Laney Salisbury and published by Bloomsbury Books .

In September this year I was in New York and was able to see the wonderful statue of Balto which is a "must visit " statue in Central Park.



NOTE: I understand a film has been made of the trip.. Probably some time ago.

Ed's note:- This was the origin of the famous "Iditarod" race which is held every year with dog sleds. I can confirm that film and documentary has been made and shown on TV at various times

A REQUEST FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE 'JOHN BISCOE' WORKBOAT

From Captain David Bray

Many of your readers will recall the "John Biscoe" which voyaged South every year from 1956 until she was retired from service in 1991. I had the good fortune to sail as Second Mate in this redoubtable vessel, between 1972-75, under Captain Malcolm Phelps. 1972-3 was his first season as Master and I think I must have been a fair trial to him.

A lot of work was conducted using the various workboats carried. Three Gemini inflatables with 40hp outboards were used for beach landings with FIDS field parties. For heavier cargo transfer at the various bases, a 30ft wooden scow was loaded with up to eight

Snippets and Letters

tons. This was towed by a 24ft diesel-powered wooden launch. The launch was stowed inside the scow on the port side of the for'ard well deck. In addition to towing the scow, the launch was extensively used as a general work boat.

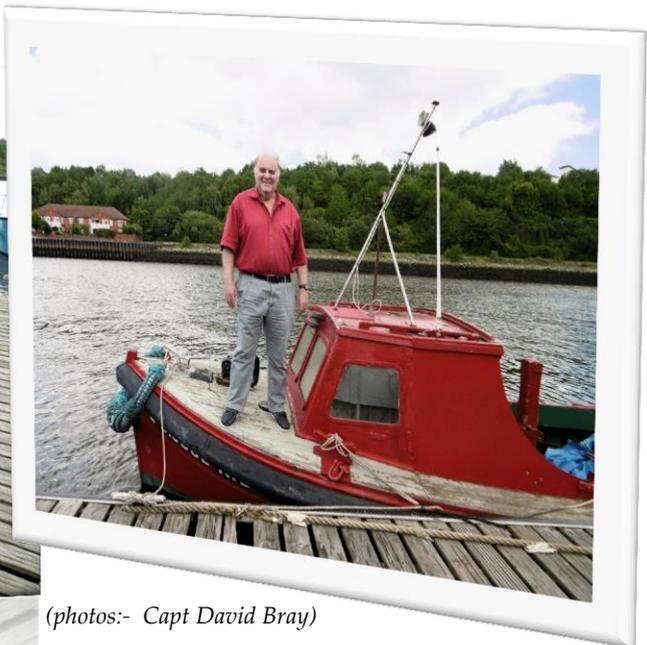
"John Biscoe" was retired from service in 1991, and was sold for further service in the Mediterranean, as "Fayza Express" --but what happened to the launch?

I knew that she had been installed in the new ship, the "James Clark Ross", but was soon replaced with a new boat. I left BAS in 1975, and had no further association with the ships. So I was amazed to notice in the TV coverage of the Jubilee river pageant, on the Thames in 2012, a very familiar-looking red boat! "And, yes. I was right!" - It was our old launch, still going strong.

I discovered that she was owned by the harbour authority at Eyemouth. The Harbourmaster had entered the boat in the Pageant as one of the "workboat" representatives. I gather it was a considerable achievement to get her ready and taken to London for the event. (*Ed's note:- this was shown on the front cover of the Magazine No 68 December 2012*)

In the summer of 2015, I had to travel to Rosyth to join a cruise ship as guest lecturer. I decided it would be a good opportunity to stop at Eyemouth and visit an old friend! Contacting the Harbourmaster elicited the information that the boat had been sold to the Friars Goose boatyard at Gateshead, for use as their yard workboat.

Accordingly, a few phone calls were made, and in August 2015 I found myself on board the venerable old craft, afloat on the Tyne.



(photos:- Capt David Bray)

However, the story has an uncertain ending. The boatyard wishes to dispose of the launch, as she is not substantial enough for their duties as yard launch. It would be very sad if this venerable survivor just sinks into oblivion. Those responsible for her at the yard are keen to see her going to "a good home". I feel that she deserves a place, either in a museum or in active use.

I wonder if your readership can provide a solution?

Captain David Bray FNI 4 Church Rise Oulton Broad NR32 3JP

e-mail: davidjames.bray@btinternet.com

Snippets and Letters

Hello Keith,

I have just spent a very happy snowy weekend reading issue 77 and the various articles prompted the following memories:

The GeoFIDS photograph and Phil Stone's Clough Medal reminded me of when the Bransfield called into Stanley at the beginning of the 1971/72 season taking Phil Stone on the back of my Triumph Trophy and Eric Lawther riding my Greeves Anglian (formerly Jim Shirtcliffe's) motorbike out to look at stone runs.

In the Derek Gipps association with FIDS & BAS there is mention of the Deception eruption and John Brotherhood's evacuation from Halley Bay; there was another little known-drama happening in Stanley Office also on that day. At around 8:30 in the evening I received a message to go into the office immediately, on my arrival Elvie Cliffe was at one end of the radio office headphone clamped to his ears working Halley Bay and Ted Clapp informed me that we had just had 2 radio operators arrested (the infamous Lomax & Williams), Ted was working the Shackleton and he wanted me to take the midnight gmt met obs.

Finally the Mike Skidmore tributes: as a young radio operator at Stanley Office I was fortunate to be offered an end of season trip on the John Biscoe to Signy & South Georgia. On arrival at Prince Olaf Harbour Malcolm Phelps said that those FIDS without cameras could go ashore to



assist with moving the rock samples, quick as a flash my camera was inside my anorak and I was on the launch, on getting to the beach these two hairy wild looking FIDS jumped over the shingle bank (Mike & Peter Noble).

On the way in I had noticed "Keep The Falklands British" painted on the side of a tank,

I presume the handiwork of Mike and Peter and I am pleased to say that when I returned to Prince Olaf in 2009 that it was still visible (attached photo).

All the best

Brian Summers

Snippets and Letters

Dear Keith

I do not normally write to editors of newspapers or magazines but this is rather different. I always find many items in the BAS Club magazine of considerable interest and hope you will continue your good work. Magazine 77 of May 2017 was of special significance to me because of the extraordinary number of pages that brought back memories of over half a century ago and thought you might like to know of my many happy reminiscences.

They started with page 12 with the mention of football. I was reminded of March or April 1954 when the Chilean Naval flagship made an off-the-record social call at Deception to say goodbye as they were on their way home at the end of the season. There happened to be a British warship at anchor at the time. We entertained members of both ships companies' at the Base, the Chilean crew set up a barbeque on the beach supplemented by generous contributions from the Brits and then there was this football match between the two crews with the Captains as linesmen. I forget who was the referee. The whole event went on until the small hours of the following morning when our visitors had to leave.

P13. New member Teresa Le Feuvre's late husband was, I strongly suspect, the Charlie Le Feuvre who was our radio operator with the RS IGYE Advance Party. Whilst the foundations for the first ever hut at Halley were being laid in January 1956, we had set up Charlie and his equipment in an empty tractor packing case - it made a very nice shelter. Sadly we lost touch with Charlie; someone thought he had gone to Australia but we never knew for sure. Charlie was possibly the last survivor of the first IGYE wintering party.

P29. Anne Todd. I first met Anne in 1955/56 when she was Bunny's PA in the FIDS Scientific Bureau in St.James's - not the FIDS office in Westminster. At that time I was based in the FIDS office and our paths met on many occasions then and since.

P36,44,45. Halley move. Of course all of this saga took me back to January 1956 when the three of us first went up onto that ice shelf, after two unsuccessful earlier attempts to find a suitable site, and found that vast, empty, expanse of flat surface and decided that this was where the IGY base was to be built

P50. Petra Searle. I was intrigued to read her piece about the name "ice shelf" Of course I remember Petra from her far-off DOS days and as I knew them both I can imagine some of her 'discussions' with Brian Roberts and Ena Thomas.

P51. Deception. I spent two summers and the winter of 1954 at Deception so was naturally interested in this article. We did have the occasional contact with the Chilean and Argentine Bases and on one occasion did walk back from the former across that strange surface mix of glacier ice and volcanic ash

P54. It was good to read of Jim Shirtcliffe. We wintered together in 1954 and Jim was always game for anything that was suggested. Together we converted a disused space into a sitting room and built a darkroom within it. Jim was a very handy man to have around.

P71/89. Base G was, of course Admiralty Bay (not South Georgia as in the title of this article) which was where I spent my first winter with FIDS, in 1953. We were in the original Sparrow House, not the grand looking 1957/58 building but the scenic pictures very much reminded me of the place

Snippets and Letters

P93 Derek Gipps. In 1956 and 1957 Derek, together with his colleague Roy Harrison, was my primary point of contact with the Crown Agents organisation. It was through them that all the orders for Halley Bay were first processed and then passed to the appropriate department and to the city shipping office. Naturally, I had a great deal of contact with Derek in those days

P95. Colleen Leavey. I only knew her by her maiden name – Colleen Rowlands. The paragraph at the foot of the first column of p96 and top of p97 is not entirely correct. She came to London in 1955 and did not actually work for Crown Agents. In August 1955 I was engaged by FIDS to oversee all the logistics for the Royal Society IGY Expedition because at that time FIDS HQ was in Stanley and the London Office staff consisted of only one person. When I arrived In London, Frank Elliot, SECFIDS, had organised an office for me in the same Crown Agents owned building as the FIDS Office and had engaged Colleen as my secretary. Both mine and Colleen’s salary payments were made by Crown Agents but they were only acting as agents for the FI government not as our employers This would explain the confusion and also why Colleen had that invitation from the Royal Society. By February 1956, when I had returned from seeing the advance party safely established, Colleen had moved on and I never met her again.

P98. The reference to Jon Stephenson and TAE reminded me that I had hitched a ride on their ship, *Theron*, from S.Georgia to Montevideo

So, Keith, you see what I mean about memories

Cheers --- George Hemmen

Dear Keith,

Prompted by your mention of “March of the Penguins” beer in mag no.76, I enclose a photo of my two unopened bottles of 30-year-old “Penguin Ale.” This was brewed in Port Stanley by Everards from 1982 to 1986 but did not sell as well as they hoped and the brewery closed down.

In 1994 I was returning to the UK after a field season on Alexander Island where I had a minor involvement with the final dog sledging season and I was tasked with helping to smooth the dogs’ transit through the Falklands on their way via the UK to Labrador. The dogs were perplexed by their first encounter with grass!

John Sweeny put me in touch with Tim Dobbys who he knew from his military service in the Falklands and I ended up staying with Tim at Riverside Farm for a couple of weeks and helping him with some generator repairs and road improvements. I think his generators were ex-BAS, liberated from the dump. Tim lived a life of escapades with more than his fair share of family tragedies and he had many stories including the explanation of two bullet holes in his living room – he had lent some guests a selection of weapons and then gone for a snooze in his armchair, only to be woken by a stray bullet passing right through his house and just missing the top of his head! He had acquired the remaining stock of bottled beer when the brewery closed down and as I had wintered at Halley and had no fear of vintage beer we made a dent in it during my stay.

Sadly Tim’s lifetime supply of Penguin Ale outlasted him because he died of cancer the following year. This special edition gift box that Tim presented me with when I left reminds me of his cheerful hospitality and good times on East Falkland.

Best wishes, Charlie Robb



Snippets and Letters

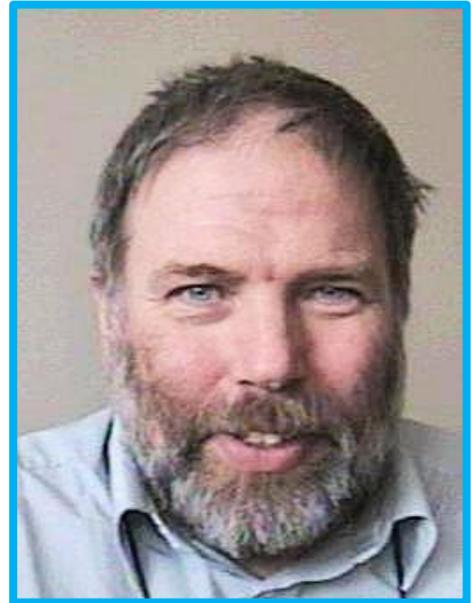
The Z-Fids website: www.zfids.org.uk

Andy Smith - 27 Oct 2017

I started the website in June 2001 so it has now been running for over 16 years. The content has gradually expanded over the years, with many people contributing to it. They are listed in the Acknowledgements section.

The aims of the website are displayed on the Home Page:

- Compile an unofficial history of Halley (Bay), Antarctica, from the viewpoint of the people who lived there;
- Put and keep former Halley (Bay) residents in touch with each other through the Internet;
- Share information about Halley (Bay) reunions, and other relevant news.



The content is a mixture of facts and stories, often illustrated by pictures. There is a General Index and a Picture Index. The focus is on those who have wintered at Halley, though there is some coverage of the summers.

The Wintering Statistics are interesting.

- Up to 2016, 774 people had wintered at Halley (733 men and 41 women).
- 424, 320, 27 and 3 spent 1, 2, 3 and 4 winter(s), respectively, at the base.

The website is organised to have a page for each year which lists the winterers, their roles and in some cases their email addresses. Each year page has a group photo of the wintering party. There is a Name Index and (also a Dog Index).

Of course there were no winterers in 2017 for safety reasons and if this continues (a decision is due to be made in January 2018) *Ed's note:- this has already been decided there will be no winterers at Halley in 2018*

The Z-Fids website will change, with no more year pages, though I will continue to put Halley related material on the website when appropriate.

A recent development is that I have started putting audio clips on the website taken from interviews with Halley people by the British Antarctic Oral History Project.

Associated with the website is the Z-Fids mailing list. A *Z-Fids Newsletter* is sent out to this mailing list every now and again, the latest issue being Number 41 (11 July 2017).

The website is being archived by the British Library for the UK Web Archive. Thanks to the BAS Club for funding the zfids.org.uk internet domain.

If you have any comments on or queries about the Z-Fids website, or have any would like to make any contributions to it, please contact me: andy@zfids.org.uk . If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please fill in the registration form on the Home Page.

Snippets and Letters

Hi Keith

I have a couple of comments about the latest BAS club mag number 77. First let me give you my background. I was stationed at Port Lockroy for two seasons 1958 to 1961 as ionosphericist.

The first correction is on page 72. The diesel Mechanic on base 'G' was Evan Watson, not Evan Williams. Evan moved to Lockroy for his second season, together with Barry Williamson. Evan was the perpetrator of the famous 'pinup girls' for the enjoyment of all at Lockroy.

The second comment is regarding the photograph on page 54 of two gents with umbrellas and a dead rabbit. I am attaching a couple of photographs which I took of this event.

The picture at the bottom of the page could easily be John Cunningham. He spent the 1960 season at Lockroy and I knew him well.

ANTARCTIC ANTICS

I went down to the Antarctic on the RRS Shackleton. We sailed from Southampton in October 1958. The voyage was interesting. We visited briefly the Cape Verde Islands, to drop off mail, then on to Montevideo. We spent about a week there and then on to Stanley.

I didn't know what was happening but reading Tom Woodfield's book Polar Mariner, I see that the captain was not in very good shape. That became evident when we arrived in Stanley.

I went to University in Liverpool and was familiar with how ferries dock. Approaching the dock at Stanley I could see that there was a problem. The 'Shack' came in too fast and rammed the end of the pier, took about 6 or 8 feet off the end. Fortunately the water was low and the bow went aground, which avoided us hitting a more substantial wall.

We spent a week or so at Stanley, picking up stores and we FidsS got our Antarctic kit. While there we had time to go on a few expeditions.

On one of these I went ashore with a couple of Fids and the first mate, Tom Woodfield, and the third mate, Jim Martin of the Shack. Tom was keen on going hunting. So we found someone who was willing to loan us a shotgun together with a few old shells. The gun was old and a bit rusty. I was not sure whether it was safe. However I had no intention of using it so I could stand well clear.

We went for a walk down to a beach on the east side of the island. There, there was sand and grass and scrub. There were also rabbits which were pretty tame. So Tom got the gun ready. He put a cartridge in and took aim at a rabbit. There was a great satisfying bang, however the shot just came out in a gentle shower, some of it just trickled out.

I said "I guess that'll scare the rest of the rabbits off".

Fortunately for us, but not the rabbits, that was not the case. There was a large flock of penguins down by the sea, the first that I had seen.

We walked down with the idea of getting a penguin if rabbits were too elusive.

However as we walked another bunny popped out of the grass. The gun was already loaded and so Tom got another chance and the gun went off again.

I expected another slow shower of shot but either this was a better cartridge or the first had cleared the gun. The shot came out as expected and the rabbit keeled over. Tom then grabbed the poor thing by its back leg and held it up.

I dutifully took a photograph.

No one else took any pot shots and we all went back to the ship.

Tom took the rabbit back to the ship where he persuaded the cook to cook it. I didn't get a taste as we ate in the Fids mess.

I guess that by the time the thing had been butchered there probably wasn't a lot of meat on it anyway.

Paul Leek



Snippets and Letters



Chris Eldon Lee reviews 'Antarctica : Life in a Hostile Land', which was at Shrewsbury Museum until 17th September 2017.

It is the coldest, highest, windiest and (surprisingly) driest continent on the planet and to survive it, you have to eat a lot.

Locally sourced food is, of course, hard to come by when the permafrost is three kilometres deep. But you could try seal brain omelette. That particular delicacy features in the Antarctic Cook Book; just one of scores of fascinating items currently on display in Shrewsbury Museum's new exhibition. First, as Mrs Beeton might say, you catch your seal. Then you smash its brains in. Then persuade four penguins to lay eggs for you. No wonder those early Antarctic explorers took prepacked food with them - such as dried kale and pemmican meat bar; disgusting, but nutritious.

The exhibition reflects on the vivid experiences of human beings in the Antarctic over the past century or so... from the heroic age of the 'race for the pole' to the vital, high-grade planetary science being conducted there today.

Two pioneers in particular are represented by artefacts they actually touched. There's Captain Scott's Union Jack, heavily stained but still cheerfully bright, which he used to mark depots of pemmican left on the ice in 1902. And a letter, dated 1910, from Sir Ernest Shackleton to the National Museum of Wales. "I'm sending you a penguin", he tells them. And the poor specimen, scruffy but serviceable, is in a display case beside his master's note.

Shropshire's connections with 'going South' are remarkably strong. So many scientists and surveyors have retired here. Pride of place goes to the Walton family of Pontesbury who have sent three generations to the great white wastes at the bottom of the earth...and the exhibition displays their polar clothing to prove it. Kevin Walton was leader of the first post-war expedition, his protective gear made of natural, pastel-coloured material. His son Jonathan followed him in the 70s in bright orange man-made fibres; clinging to the back of a displayed dog sledge made of flexible ash wood; just as Scott and Shackleton had. His son, Finn, drove a skidoo to the South Pole in 2011. Yet the tents they used are almost identical; tall, pyramidal affairs that have withstood 90 mile an hour winds for a 100 years. One of the treats of the exhibition is to kick off your shoes, climb inside, and snuggle down on a double layered sleeping bag next to a rations box and a primus stove ... and imagine what it must have been like. During a bad blow, two men could spend a week in there waiting to climb out again.

And there are Antarctic voices, too. From an old-fashioned radio come the stentorian tones of Sir Raymond Priestley, one of the first geologists to wield a hammer so far south. You can hear retired pilot Bob Bond of Church Stretton describe flying in a white out. (All Antarctic aircraft are painted red, by the way, so airman can navigate by the wrecks of previous planes).

George Kistruck from Cheshire can be heard musing about how long his team of four could survive so far South if the rest of the world were wiped out by nuclear annihilation. (Around a decade, he reckoned). George was based in the lonely red hut at Fossil Bluff...literally miles from anywhere. Jonathan Walton was there too, sharing a wooden box, 6 meters by 4, with a quartet of men for an entire, pitch-black, winter. We hear from the last man - John Sweeney of Snowdonia - to drive huskies in Antarctica before alien species were outlawed. And from Vicki Auld, the first female base leader in a land so long the exclusive domain of men.

Snippets and Letters

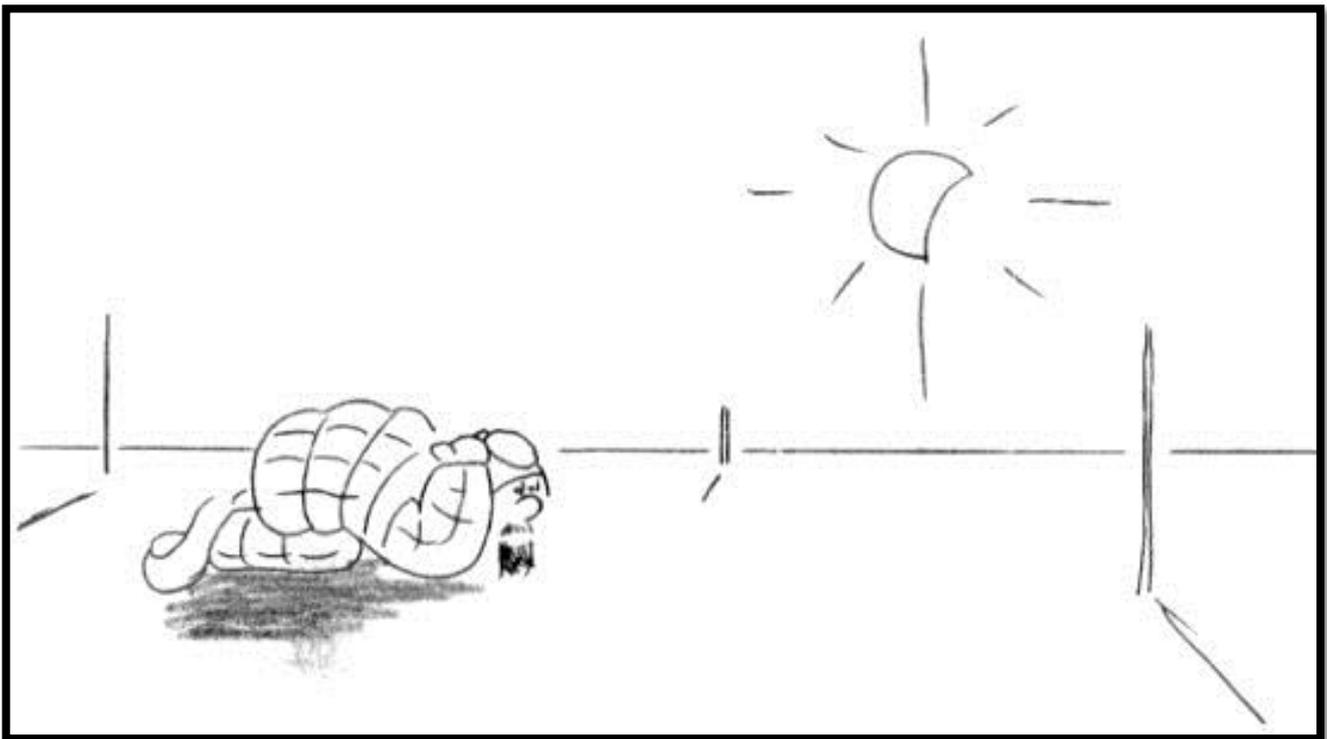
Graham Wright of Newtown has donated priceless colour film footage of his dog-handling days and Ben Osbourne of Pontesford has contributed stunning still images of the natural history to be found there. Ben was a photographer on the original David Attenborough 'Life In The Freezer' expedition.

Man went to the Antarctic for science; both to map the new lands and to study heaven and ice. The most spectacular, earth-saving discovery was that of the hole in the Ozone layer in 1985. In my own Oral History work for British Antarctic Survey I was lucky enough to interview both surviving scientists. They were equally modest about their vital work...which was based on 50 years of spectrometer observations taken by rough and ready explorers across the continent.

The science continues at both Britain's bases...which, today, are more like universities rather than wooden huts. The most spectacular moment in the exhibition can only be experienced by donning a headset. It's a virtual reality experience of Halley VI – a primary coloured spaceship, built on stilts perched on giant skis ... so that the base doesn't get buried in the snow and can be moved further inland as the ice shelf it sits upon becomes a victim of global warming.

The device puts you personally in the middle of Antarctica, with its 360° sweep of snow, and even allows you to walk underneath the towering base, as the brightly suited scientists beside you do. It is awe-inspiring. But then Antarctica is awesome. Take it from me; going there is the nearest you'll ever get to leaving the planet. And this exhibition brings you one step closer to it.

(Note:- the Exhibition was visited by a few BAS Club members during its run at the Shrewsbury Museum – refer to mag 77 May 2017 for further information)



Radio messages home produced a solar eclipse!

Features

PLUCKY LITTLE SHIP AURORA

BY ALEX GAFFIKIN

On the 20th June 1917, the S.Y *Aurora* sailed off from Newcastle NSW on its final voyage. A few weeks later the alarm was raised when they failed to send word and then the lifebuoy was discovered in December by a passing ship. It is presumed that the vessel sank, or was sunk by an enemy vessel, and all hands were lost. To commemorate the loss of the S.Y *Aurora*, the ANARE Club in Australia (the equivalent of BAS Club) arranged a service and memorial to the officers and crew lost at sea. The event took place exactly 100 years later on 20th June 2017 in The St Nicholas Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle NSW.

I was invited to attend as I an honorary member of the ANARE club, but rather oddly I also went with my other hat on – as Head of Interpretation and Design at the Australian National Maritime Museum. We have recently been gifted the lifebuoy into our collections and we now have a small display about the S. Y. *Aurora* on in one of our galleries. On the day, we took the lifebuoy up to the cathedral where it was a feature of the service.

Newcastle is about 3 and a half hours north of Sydney. Three of us set off at 8 in the morning in the museum van. First was Daina Fletcher the senior curator, next was Andrew Frollows our photographer and then myself. When we arrived at the Cathedral we set up the lifebuoy in the St Nicholas Chapel where the ceremony was to be held.



The service started with the singing of the Australian and New Zealand national anthems. Then the Dean of Newcastle, The Very Revd Stephen Williams welcome the congregation. So many people had turned up that they needed to get more seats at the last minute! In the audience were ANARE club members, BAS club members, descendants of the crew of the vessel and local school children.

I found myself sitting next to four grandsons of the Captain. They had flown from New Zealand especially for the event.

The address was given by Mr David Dodd JP, Secretary of the ANARE Club. He had gone to immense pains to research both the history of the S.Y *Aurora* and the biographies of the sailors that had sailed on her last voyage. The S. Y. *Aurora* sank during a voyage to take coal to Chile but of course it has a particular connection to Antarctica. According to David, 'Aurora went on to provide a further 8 years of faithful service to Douglas Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition 1911-1914 and then in 1914 to Shackleton's ITAE – Ross Sea Party. She was then requisitioned to perform her final Antarctic voyage in 1916-17 as the Relief voyage to the Ross Sea to rescue the survivors of the marooned Ross Sea Party'. You can still see ITAE stencilled on the lifebuoy.

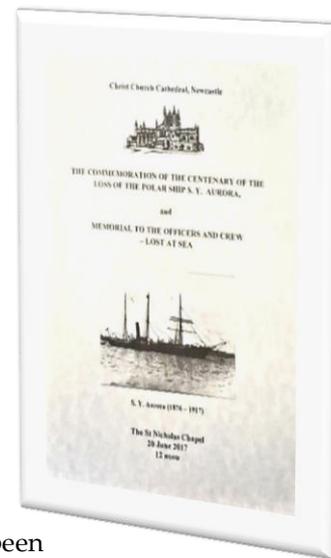


David went on to say that 'Detailed research has shown that the loss of this 41 year old wooden vessel was due to her structural sea going integrity compromised by her ages and the buffeting experiences throughout her extraordinary, cold-ocean high latitude voyages in both hemispheres'.

During the service we unveiled a plaque as a memorial to the officers and crew lost at sea. The Captain, R. J Reeves was only 28 when they set sail and the ships boys were teenagers. On board were 3 Australians, 7 New Zealanders and 10 UK merchant seaman – including the Cook

who was from Heligoland B. N. S.

The ceremony concluded with a blessing and attendees were encouraged to sign the visitor book. If you would like to know more about the *Aurora*, Daina has written a blog which you can find on the Australian National Maritime Museum website. If you want to google, the title of the blog is 'A Poignant Remnant from the 'Plucky little Ship *Aurora*'.



Features

JIM FRANKS DIARY- Part IV – 1958 February to April

by Jim Franks

F.I.D.S. Report No 67

1st to 31st January 1958

Base G - Admiralty Bay

The new armoured cable was laid between the Meteorological Office and subsidiary anemometer tower. Repairs to the balloon hut were completed and by 31st January two balloons had been flown. The theodolite was also repaired.

The R.R.S. 'Shackleton' arrived on 5th January, and left two days later. The following personnel embarked for Greenwich Island :

G. J. Davey - Assistant Surveyor.

G. Monk - Senior Wireless Operator Mechanic.

D. R. K. Stephens - Meteorological Assistant.

H. M. Noble and P. Bunch were also embarked.

The official mail was received. The 'Shackleton' called again on 21st January to collect outgoing mail and departed on the same day.

A boat journey was made to Point Hennequin by J. S. Bibby, T. H. H. Richardson, A. J. Wensley-Walker and A. Precious for the purpose of collecting rock specimens. On the 9th and 11th January Wensley-Walker escorted Bibby and Richardson to Ezcurra Inlet. They had with them provisions for forty days and they intend to remain there until approximately the 8th February. On 28th January D. R. Bell and Wensley-Walker left by boat for Ezcurra Inlet and from there they propose to travel to South Ice Cap in order to rebuild Davey's snow beacons. They will also visit Bibby and Richardson and if possible ring Giant Petrels in Point Thomas area.

M. J. Stansbury concluded his glaciological investigations and arranged with Bell for a series of observations to be made during 1958.

1958

Saturday 1st February

Attempted a balloon in the morning with Allan G expecting to reach 3-400ft but found cloud height was 1750ft, so put in a couple of hours fixing felt on hut walls. When this is completed and covered with hardboard, it should make quite a cosy little den.

Got down to some serious work on the stats with Allan G, completed the sunshine and 3207's and over half the 3206's.

After dinner heard the pups kicking up a row and found they were attacking a chinstrap penguin. I went out and rescued it and brought it in to the hut, on examination it only had a gashed leg despite its bloody appearance. Decided it would be better off back in the sea, so carried it down to the beach where it perked up quite a bit although for several minutes it made no attempt to swim away, then suddenly with a quick splash it was gone.

The pups have now become brave enough to attack a penguin, whereas before they were just curious and somewhat frightened, but they haven't the power to kill one outright, so we try to curb them as much as possible. The penguins themselves don't help with their own preservation at all, as they just stand and squawk and flap, often just in the water but making no attempt to swim away to safety. They are extremely stupid creatures like this, and if approached by man or dog as often as not run away inland, in fact Spud was once seen shepherding one up to the span where he promptly killed it for Kita.

Sunday 2nd February

Alan P on cook. On met today, no possibility of a balloon as 8/8 Stratus at 800 down to 300ft all day, so continued stats, and apart from some of the totalling they are now complete. In future if the 3206's are filled in every ten days or so this task will not be so long and arduous as the totalling is all done on a calculating machine making it a quick and simple task.

Monday 3rd February

Completed the totalling and mean values on the stats today, so that's that for another month. Attempted to take some pictures of the pups this afternoon, but the cunning little devils know that you particularly want them to pose, as they so often do when your camera isn't handy, so that's the last thing they think of doing. Or else they strike a good pose out of range and just as you get up to them, and raise your

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camera, they move.

Tuesday 4th February

On met again today, we are now on watch and watch, Allan G and I, with Robin and Tink out and Alan P on cook.

Had rather more success today with photographing the pups while we were up at the balloon hut. After securing several shots I gave Allan G my camera to take a picture of me with them gathered round, then I crouched down and called them all to me, after a couple of calls they came at the rush and over I went. I believe Allan got some good shots of fur, teeth and paws. This ended by Nadia dashing off with my hat with three of the others in pursuit while Fay settled down to chewing my goggles.

Ted has started to listen in to FICOL and I have put a chart on the wall, under a piece of perspex, so that we can plot the reports and get some idea of a forecast.



Me and the Pups



The Pups



Wednesday 5th February

Now that the immediate work is done I felt we could relax a bit, so Allan G and I went out skiing this afternoon. though most of the snow is gone or on the way there is still enough for us to learn on and the surface is quite good now. Since most of the skis are away with the various parties we have out at the moment, I had to use an old pair of long skis, got on quite well with them, perhaps even better than the short ones. Did some shrimping today, didn't see any of the larger ones but plenty of smaller varieties of krill.

Thursday 6th February

On met. Intended skiing up to the ice ob point this afternoon but had trouble fitting a new magazine to the .22 rifle, which I wanted to take for the possibility of potting a shag down on the Plaza. This rather delayed my start so I decided just to walk round the beach, while Allan G preferred to try some more skiing and he came part way with me.

There was no sign of a shag anywhere, more's the pity, so I just loosed off the magazine for target practice; can't do too much of that though as we only get 500 rounds a year. Then suddenly as I happened to look out towards the Gates, there were three ships coming in, a most surprising sight.

I immediately started back and picked up Allan on the way, keeping an eye on them all the while, until they were out of sight in Ezcurra Inlet, I bet they surprised the boys out there !

Arrived back at the hut, to find all in a flurry of scrubbing out and dinner spoiled in consequence.

About half an hour later all three had dropped the hook in Visca anchorage and a boat was on its way ashore. They were Chilean ships, our old friend of three weeks ago 'Lautaro', her sister ship 'Lientur' and a larger one of about 5,000 tons the 'Angamos'.

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It was an officer from the Lientur who came ashore to ask us if we would keep a parcel for one of their officers who is at present on the John Biscoe, and give it him when she calls. They also brought three bottles of wine. He did not stay long as the Lientur was sailing for Punta Arenas, but the other two are staying the night. When he had returned on board we made a belated and rather hurried meal, fully expecting a visit from one or both the other ships, no sign of anybody though, probably as it is blowing up a bit.

About 10 o'clock the 'San Martin', the Argentine icebreaker, came in; this place gets more like Pompey every day. Since I am on met, I've got to keep an eye on these ships and report any movements which means staying up until Allan G comes on at 6 o'clock instead of turning in at three.

Had a telegram this evening, birthday wishes from Mum and Dad.

Friday 7th February

The San Martin went out at 04:45, but when I got up for lunch she was back again.

A fairly light east wind and driving snow all day, so no sign of life from the ships, but in the evening the Lautaro and Angamos sailed.

Allan G has been busy making up an extension tube for his camera and has got it all set up in the workshop and we have been attempting to photograph some of the krill I caught the other day.

Spent nearly all my watch last night trying to identify a gull, I saw on the Plaza yesterday, with no results. We haven't many bird books but if Murphy's doesn't give it there's not much chance of finding it elsewhere.

The pups came up with us when we fed the dogs, as they have been doing since just after Nadia arrived. She started visiting Tristan and Tony, who of course she knew, and has taught the others to do likewise and of course they all play around with Spud. The bitches get quite upset about this and Fay got too near to Dot this evening and got attacked but luckily she was more scared than hurt, just a slight cut on her right hind leg.

Replied to Mum and Dad's telegram.

Saturday 8th February

On met today, a foul day, high winds and snow again. This is the first weather anything like real Antarctic we've had and if it's anything to go by, really bad weather must be quite rough to be out in. I had quite a struggle to get to the screen, no wonder we need a guide line for the winter.



'The Plaza' in roughers

The San Martin eventually left this evening, so at least I haven't got to sit up all night again.

Allan G has developed his film with our photo of the krill on it, and printed it this evening; not a bad result, just a bit over exposed. This is probably due to Ted having taken a flash shot of the apparatus while we were exposing.

Sunday 9th February

Allan G on cook. My birthday also my bath night.

A really beautiful day, clear sky, warm sun and little wind, such a change from the last two days. There is now a good deal of snow back where it had thawed away, but not a complete covering as the wind blows it into deep drifts leaving all the high spots bare.

Features

Took advantage of this fresh snow and went out skiing in the afternoon and again after dinner, when the surface was quite fast, having thawed in the sun, then frozen again. Definitely making progress, managing to turn fairly well now although I find a right turn much the harder.

Alan P had made and iced a birthday cake for me, really nice too! Just before afternoon tea, John and Tony arrived, very nice of them to come all that way to wish me happy returns.

The blizzard yesterday holed both their boats on the beach, as Wens and Tink are up on the Plateau at the moment, they couldn't possibly pull them up any further on their own. They managed to patch one up sufficiently to get over here, to collect materials to patch the other one and also get Chris to overhaul one of the motors. Alan P gave them a few cans of beer and a bottle of Chilean wine and we said farewell again for about another week. About ten minutes later they walked back in again both motors having stopped and the prop's fallen off one. More work for Chris and they were away again, this time they managed it OK.

Monday 10th February

On met again. Fetched up ice for the bathroom tank and also some for the kitchen while I was about it. More skiing this evening, but had to pack up when a piece of the metal edging came adrift, this is probably what was giving me some trouble turning that ski yesterday. Checked all the edgings while I was doing it and am hoping that now I shall be able to go like a bird. as long as its not like the imitation of a power dive I did last night, I was running quite fast, then suddenly skidded along on my nose finishing up with my head buried, skis all crossed and sticks miles away. I had two or three cuts on my face from this, as the ice crystals on the surface are quite sharp.

Tuesday 11th February

Quite fine today ending with a beautiful sunset, Pt. Hennequin and Ternyck Glacier all one bright pink and orange glow that lasted about a quarter of an hour. This is certainly not just a land of black and white but wonderful subtle colouring, quite different from any other part of the world.

More skiing this evening, progressing. If we can keep this up, just an hour or so each day, then we should be sufficiently efficient to go out on a trip when the time comes.

Received a signal to say Base J. are sending us five pups and Argentine Islands two unspecified dogs named Nymph and Lobo. Well we needed more dogs and we've got them, with a vengeance, but ten pups and possibly the other two as well, that's certainly going to be a handful.

Wednesday 12th February

On met. Printed one or two of Chris' negs, ones with me on, for sending home. As I had to go and look out for John and Tony being duty met, Allan G and I skied way up the hill almost to the ice ob. pt. to do this.

The surface was rather wet and not very fast on the way down but it was quite good and certainly experience of future travel.

Spent the afternoon up in the old hut, opening the emergency clothing crates, Chris came up and helped sort them out. They haven't been checked since they arrived here and are all soaking wet and most of them half rotted away. Managed to save very little at all and that needed dhobeying. (*Ed -means washing*)

Thursday 13th February

All day today filling up the coalshed and stacking the rest in two piles a little away from the hut. Quite some job this with only three of us to do it, must have moved something like twenty tons in all. Consequently no skiing lesson this evening,

I felt more like going to bed instead, needless to say it was quite late before I managed this though. There is something about the life here that shifts the waking and working day to just before lunch till gone midnight. I thought at first it was the light nights but now it is getting quite dark by eleven and yet it still doesn't seem to be bedtime.

Friday 14th February

On met. Valentine's Day.

Finished off the coaling process by bagging up all the empty sacks and carrying them down to the beach where we have piled them on the barge. About another dozen empty oil drums have been rolled down there as well in preparation for being shipped out, as well as making the place rather tidier for the forthcoming visit of H.E. (*Ed:- His Excellency Governor of Falkland Islands*) between the 17th and 24th.

Went out skiing again this evening but hadn't been at it long when I came a real purler. The result of this was a large tear in the running surface of one ski, so unless I can stick the piece back efficiently or fit up another pair, that's put paid to any more practice until some of the boys come back with the skis they have.

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Saturday 15th February

The usual weekly scrub out plus a bit of extra tidying up, again for the arrival of H.E. Managed to effect a repair to my ski but have yet to see if it will be good enough. A rather miserable day, in fact just like England, can't seem to get away from it.

Sunday 16th February

On cook this week.

Just as I was congratulating myself that I only had five to cook for and also, there's plenty of bread in the bin, when Wens, Tink, John and Tony came back.

It was about 11oclock in the evening when Chris came in to say he didn't know what to think but he could hear voices out in the bay. Of course everybody told him what was wrong, but it turned out to be true. They had apparently started out about four hours before, but various engine troubles etc. and then the failing light delayed them.

They needed a meal so I had to rustle something up but it couldn't have been enough, for they proceeded to demolish the bread down to the last crust.

Among John's specimens are some very fine fossil leaves, a couple of pieces of which he has left behind.

Monday 17th February

Rather busy in the kitchen what with nine to cook for and bread to bake as soon as possible.

A signal this evening to say H.E. is arriving in the Protector early tomorrow morning. Several of the lads have decided to start cleaning up in preparation for this visit now, but I'm going to do the kitchen after breakfast. Was given lesson no. 2 on ski turns this evening, not much success but I suppose practice makes perfect and all that.

Tuesday 18th February

Well very little cleaning got done last night, in fact I think the place is worse than it was last night, at least the kitchen is, I felt like throwing the lot out the window or going for a long walk.

Anyway all was pretty well in order by the time H.E. arrived in the 'chopper', the damp sledging gear and John and Tony's gear lying about give an excuse for us anyway.

The Protector never came in the bay, something about , frightened of being caught in the ice, apparently there's quite a lot outside.

Ted was taken off to be examined on board by the Doc, and later sent a message for his kit as he's not coming back; it's a good job Tink knows something about radio or we would be in the cart.

H.E. didn't stay very long as Protector was anxious to get to View Pt., and he returned on board with Alan P, Wens and Allan G for lunch. Lunch here was a bit of a muddle, not knowing how many there would be till the last moment and then just as I dished it out the chopper came back for John

and Tony and Doc Allan who had come over to discuss Spud and got left behind. It took two trips to move their gear and them, so they were able to get lunch in between. Allan and co. returned on the second trip, and reported a splendid lunch and a good report from

H.E. who was very pleased with all he'd seen, although this wasn't everything due to the briefness of his visit and he would have liked to have stayed longer.

It really seems ridiculous, the first base he has visited and only stays about an hour, especially after the work we'd put in to receive him, still the Protector has a schedule to complete and that comes first, Governor or no.



Features

More mail with this visit although this will be the last this year. I was extremely pleased to hear that my colour film has reached home and all my shots have come out very well, I must ask Mum to send it down to me next year. Had several most unexpected letters I was most grateful to receive, including one from a girl who is apparently typing all my letters out for Tiffins, they probably intend printing them in the magazine and the old boys' news letters. Mum also tells me there is an article on me in a county periodical, quite amazing how famous everyone becomes when they come down here, it's the same with everyone.

Wednesday 19th February

Had a go at a chocolate layer cake from a recipe we found in a magazine; very fine result despite the fact it got a trifle scorched. The main problem with cooking here is that the heat of the Esse stove depends largely on the amount of wind, therefore its either too cold to do anything with or else it's so scorching hot you can't keep anything in it long enough to cook before its boiled dry or burnt to a cinder. Large quantities of heat are absorbed when the tank is topped up with ice, so that if this happens in the middle of cooking you're liable to lose the lot.

Came a real purler whilst skiing this evening, and got my skis so entangled that I just couldn't move, so I had to wait till someone saw me and came to see what was wrong.

Thursday 20th February

Work started on the least damaged of the two boats today. This is rather a difficult job as we haven't the wood and materials for a job like this. Brought out the bulbs we planted a couple of weeks ago, they're coming on fine and several of the hyacinths are starting to bloom.

Another wonderful sunset, Allan G and I skied up the hill just in time to get a couple of wonderful colour shots across Mackellar Inlet.

Friday 21st February

A signal today to say we are to relinquish control to Deception and send them one of our transmitters and all the Creed gear, so now everyone's in the workshop cutting up wood for either the boat or packing cases. This evening felt it was time we had a celebration, so we opened a bottle of Pisco, which the Chileans gave us. Very fine stuff, made quite a pleasant evening with several tins of fruit as well.

The Shackleton will now be arriving at the end of the month, this will probably be the last call this year unless the Argies or Chilean come in again. The Biscoe has been held up in the ice for some time, trying to reach Base Y. It is now of course getting rather late in the year and there seems a possibility of their not being relieved.

Saturday 22nd February

Repairs to the first boat were finished today and after lunch we all helped launch it for testing. Seems to be OK, makes a little water but that's only the new planks taking up. Made some chocolate truffles this afternoon, very successful except nobody liked the cocoa powder on the outside.

A wonderful sunny day today and since it's scrubbing out day we had morning tea outside, quite a nice change apart from the problem of the pups trying to get into everything. Despite the fact that the temp was about 32oF it was quite comfortable sitting there in shirt sleeves, in fact the sun was quite hot.

Sunday 23rd February

Chris and Alan P put in the first anchor point for a new dog span down on the beach this morning and Allan G and I helped put in the second during the afternoon. As we have got to have a new span for our own pups and the new ones coming Alan P wants to have them all on a new site and we are going to move the existing span down to the beach as well. Spotted several seals out on the ice in the bay this evening, so now we have at last got a boat again Wens, Allan G and I made preparations to go out and get them. Had quite a heavy time of it in the ice but managed to get there, all leopards, one a really huge one. so now we have a welcome break in the diet, fresh liver and heart.

Glad it's my bath night tonight, I could do with one after gutting those seal.

Monday 24th February

On met today. Attempted a balloon with Allan G this afternoon but it was blowing 15-20 knots so the balloon went off nearly horizontally and was below the rim of the hatch so couldn't be picked up in the theodolite.

After cementing in one end of the second dog span Allan G and I went up and cut the hatch coaming down, so we should be OK in high winds now. While we were doing this we saw Alan P go off along the beach with the rifle to take Dot out and shoot her, as she is really too small and weak and hasn't ever

Features

produced any pups we just can't afford to keep her, its rather hard but every thing down here must pay its way or go.

Spent my night watch writing letters, still plenty more to get through though. Biscoe is coming now instead of Shackleton who has some trouble with her prop. and is still around the Falklands somewhere.

Tuesday 25th February

A lousy day so no more outside work to do. Allan G and I got down to the 3206's and have now got them up to date. A strong NE wind blowing across the bay has piled all the ice up on the beach including a small berg just off shore. Had a chat with Robin Perry, at Base W, on the RT this evening, as he wanted some information on met monthly reports. Doc Graham also came on to say hello, says he's cook this week, didn't sound as if he thought much of it.

Wednesday 26th February

Some weather again today, couldn't do anything outside so did as much as possible of the 3207. Have discovered that rolls of Creed tape makes wonderful modelling material, Tink, Allan G and I have been fashioning flower bowls and hats out of them, this afternoon.

Managed to get some morse practice in this evening, have been meaning to do some for ages but never seem to manage it somehow.

Thursday 27th February

On met. -- Weather is clear today and bar is rising.

Alan P, Chris, Allan G and I put in the wire on the first span this afternoon and fitted twelve shackles for the dog chains but we can get on another seven or eight yet. this will mean that there will only be two or three dogs on the second span thus leaving plenty of room for new litters.

Had another practice at morse this evening, then Tink insisted I send the obs at midnight. I wasn't very keen on this but with him there to tell me what and when to send I managed OK.

Picture shows this evening by courtesy of Allan G his first colour film returned from England.

Friday 28th February

Got some more letters written last night, trouble is the more I write the more people I think of to write to. Went up to the ice ob pt to see if the past day's bad weather had brought up any ice. Allan G accompanied and we took the opportunity to exercise a couple of dogs. At least that was the intention. Al took Tony and I took Tristan, or rather they took us, ending up with a mad race home along the beach, Tristan winning by a short head with me trailing on the end of his lead.

No change in ice conditions except for plenty of bergs piled up off Demay Pt, Graham Land in plain sight all along horizon, in bright sunlight. Mean temp 32.2°F Max 45°F Min 19°F

F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st to 28th February 1958

Base G Admiralty Bay

The weather was mainly dull during the month and temperatures low for the time of year.

Bibby and Richardson returned from a successful stay in Ezcurra Inlet, A. Wensley-Walker and D. R. Bell also rebuilt the survey beacons there and on the South Ice Cap. Thirty Giant Petrels were ringed at Point Thomas.

H.M. Ship called on the 18th February and his Excellency the Governor paid a visit to the Base. Bibby, Richardson and Ross were embarked. The 'John Biscoe' arrived on the 1st March and departed two days later having disembarked D.R.K.

Stephens (Met assistant) and G. Monk (Wireless Operator) A new span was constructed and a dinghy repaired.

Saturday 1st March

Allan G and I polishing off the stats in the morning. While we were having lunch the dogs started singing, which we guessed was due to the arrival of John Biscoe. Sure enough, about five minutes later we saw her through the window as she came to anchor close to the shore between the hut and W Stenhouse glacier where she can pick up fresh water from a melt stream.

Typical FIDS organisation, or lack of it, as last night Tink was talking with them and they said they were not coming in today and didn't know when they would.

Geoff and Robin have now returned but Gray is still out with two reliefs off the Biscoe. This is hard luck for Allan G as he was to have relieved Robin, but the master of Biscoe wanted to save a trip. Despite the interruption of the ship's arrival and a load of visitors, managed to complete enough of the stats to get the 'climate' off in the evening.

Alan P, Wens and Chris went on board this evening, ostensibly for business reasons but they haven't returned. Wens is due to go out but they're not taking him this time, he doesn't seem very pleased.

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Sunday 2nd March

On met today. Tink on cook this week.

The wanderers returned about nine o'clock, said they missed the last boat, not very convincing I'm afraid. Lousy weather, strong east wind and snow. Probably due to this, Biscoe moved out to the anchorage this morning but otherwise no sign of life from them until after lunch when the boat came ashore twice with some spares for Chris and also took off the radio gear and Creed equipment and all the boys except Alan P, Robin and myself.

Ray the American observer and an Argentine observer came ashore and got stranded until late in the evening as the weather became too rough to get a boat in. It looked as though they'd be staying the night, Halfway through entertaining them with drinks and a tour of the hut, I realised that as Tink had gone on board someone would have to cook dinner so I turned to, to knock up something quick.

Hope they were suitably impressed. Two Fids who have been down a year, the Doc from Base W, Henry Wyatt, and John Paisley, who my landlady at Stanmore knew, came ashore to do some climbing and stayed the night.

Alan P went on board when Ray and the Argie left and those of us left had a party of our own on some of Robin's Guinness.

Monday 3rd March

By the time I got up the Biscoe had left, taking what mail we had managed to write, to put aboard the Protector.

Wens was tinkering with the gramophone he's bought off Ted and I was sitting watching when Tink came in to look and dropped a large tin of apricots on my toe. As I wear my open sandals in the hut, this rather distracted my interest in gramophones for a bit and as its rather painful and in danger of being trodden on I've turned in early.

Tuesday 4th March

The toe is a lot better today although I'm still limping a bit but it doesn't seem to be broken as I thought possible yesterday. Allan G and I have completed the totals and means on the 3206's this afternoon. While we were at this Chris came in to say he'd seen a whale in the bay again. Both him and Alan P have been seeing them but nobody else has, however this time we all saw it, a rorqual, cruising round the bay.

Geoff and Wens are now happy playing with Geoff's motorbike, although there's no sign of it working yet. Robin has produced a licence application form for him.

A beautiful evening, as the clouds cleared off just before sunset. Ternyck Needle and the wind scoop round it were all lit up bright orange, like a candle on an iced cake.

Then a great full moon rose from behind Ullman Range, turning the water and the snow into glistening silver, and making it all more barren and lonely than ever. This is the first time we have seen the moon down here and it's rather odd to see it upside down, you can't recognise the man in the moon at all.

Wednesday 5th March

A wonderful sunny afternoon, very little cloud except for some wonderful displays of orographic, quite thin and short lived though. Allan G and I decided to take the opportunity and do a real good balloon, so we used a 150' one with a 120' tail on.

This size rise at 1000' a minute so we reckoned to get it well up, unfortunately it burst at 23,000' but that's certainly not a bad effort and anyway that's the easiest bit, it still has to be calculated.

Wens and Chris went out seal hunting, heard plenty of firing, then they came back with one shag. The poor thing must have had heart failure.

Geoff brought his bike out this evening for its first try out, a good performance, it should provide some fun on this surface. We're all looking forward to hitching him to a sledge.

I developed a film this evening which I've just finished, while Robin and Tink tried their hands at some moonlight photography.

Signal this evening to say Shackleton has returned to Stanley with stern gland trouble and expects to have to dry dock.

Thursday 6th March

On met today. Tried to make a coat hanger this morning, not very good result due to lack of suitable material.

Features

Allan G and I got in some more work on the balloon hut, fitting handles to the hatch and putting some more felt on the ceiling.

Spent my night watch writing more letters. I thought that coming down here would be a release from the tedium but instead I'm writing more than I've ever done before.

Had the shag for dinner, excellent! wish there'd been two.

Friday 7th March

This afternoon four of us took dogs for exercise. Alan P with Xenon, Allan G, Tex, Chris, Spot, and I took Colin. Went round the beach to about half way up Mackellar Inlet, running best part of the way. The dogs certainly are strong, Colin pulled me right off my feet.

Spent the evening printing my latest film, some very good pictures of pups and the seven shots of a panorama from the wind vane look as if they will print a wonderful picture.

Saturday 8th March

Very strong wind mounting to gale in the afternoon, so, stayed in and dried off my prints in our new print dryer we've bought from one of the FIDS in the Biscoe.

A very fine machine, dries in about five minutes and keeps them flat too. Fitted the panorama together and it now resides in the met office as a vis. point picture.

Found Ace looking very bedraggled, trying to shelter behind the hut, took him back to the span when we fed the dogs but he doesn't look at all happy in this weather, guess he's getting a bit beyond it, he's nine years old.

Sunday 9th March

Chris on cook this week.

Topped up the bathroom tank after my bath last night, and found a large jellyfish washed up on the beach. Drew a plan of the hut and a couple of maps of the island and the bay to send home, otherwise a quiet day.

Ace back off the span again, had him in the workshop and gave him some milk during the afternoon.

Monday 10th March

Helped Robin write up last year's bedroom temperature charts, in the morning and spent all afternoon re-orientating the wind vane. This is rather a difficult job, as it's a matter of hit and miss adjustments that need checking with the indicator in the office each time, this is done by a relay of shouts up and down the hill. However it's working true again now.

Poor old Ace is still wandering around the hut, and its been suggested we build him a kennel near the hut, that he can use in bad weather and let him stay loose.

Geoff is doing hard labour, building a ramp up into the Square Box for his bike.

Discovered a plant growing on the hill whilst working on the wind vane, Robin says it's saxifrage. Have transplanted some into the greenhouse.

Tuesday 11th March

On met today. Alan P's birthday. -- Robin and I made up a new set of traces for the sledge, from the new Terylene rope, very nice stuff but a swine to splice, also spliced two lengths of rope together for a guide line to the screen.

After afternoon tea Robin took Alan P for a long walk with a couple of the dogs, while we laid out a big spread for his birthday party. This had all been prepared last night, mainly by Tink, Chris and Wens. They made cheese biscuits, vol-au-vents, various cakes including chocolate eclairs, jellies and blanchmanges and of course an iced cake.

For a birthday card we mounted a print of a group photo Robin took, in a folder supplied by Tink, and all signed it. As a present Alan was allowed to eat the radish - a ceremony duly recorded on film.

All round a very fine party including a film show from Alan P. Discovered the hatch had blown off the balloon shed and the theodolite cover blown away.

This proves we must bolt it on.

Wednesday 12th March

A trip round to the depot on the other side of the Kellar Range, this afternoon, in the boat, with Wens and Allan G, to depot some dog pemmican. Shot two shag on the way round past the Plaza but only saw two baby seal.

Features

The Plaza

We're getting rather short of seal now and haven't seen any for some time now.

On the way back spotted Nadia and Tina chasing penguins some way up the mountain side, so we put in to shore to pick them up and brought them back to base in the boat.

They thoroughly enjoyed this new mode of travel, so we'll probably have them leaping in the boat every time it goes out.

Tink and Robin have built a kennel for Ace next to the pile of coal and the steep hill sign.

Thursday 13th March

Another boat load round the corner this morning, beautiful day, shirtsleeve weather. Still no sign of any seal, but we saw the terns gathering for migration.

Allan G and I managed to finish the puttying up at the balloon shed this afternoon in fairly warm weather (39°). Al G gave a film show this evening. Wish I had my colour film sent back instead of to home but I definitely will, the rest.

Tink, Al G and I made three attempts last night to do a night balloon but each time the candle blew out as soon as we lit it.

Friday 14th March

Robin Al G and I spent the morning sewing new harnesses for Spot, Tony and Tristan. These are made to measure for each dog, out of lampwick, so Tink and Robin finished off the guide line to the screen.

Printed a few more pictures this evening, some of the party at Margot's to send to them and a new set of my panorama to send home. This was quite a tricky job getting them all matched up with the correct tones to join together.

Saturday 15th March

Tink and I went up to do a balloon after lunch only to find the hatch had come off again and blown right down to the beach, doing some damage to it on the way. Spent the rest of the afternoon and evening repairing it and making pegs to lock it on, and prevent further flights.

By the time we'd finished and taken it back it was too dark to see to fit it, so we did a night balloon instead. Very successful this time, up to 10,500ft., this'll shake the C.M.O.

Sunday 16th March

Robin on cook this week. On met today. Wens birthday. Finished off balloon hut hatch this morning.

Cut Wen's birthday cake at tea time, Chris made it after Tink's inspiration, in the form of a Vat 69 bottle, an excellent cake.

Had intended to write letters whilst on night watch, but due to the party spirit this got neglected. Expecting the Biscoe on Tuesday.

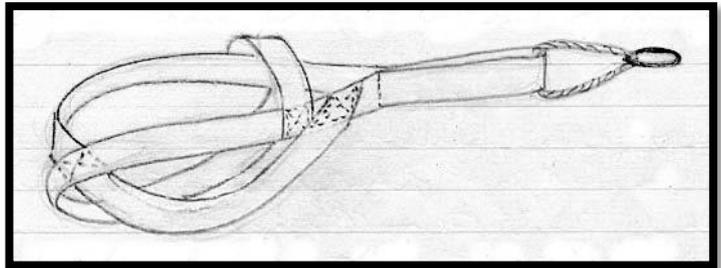
Monday 17th March

Apart from helping Alan P with a balloon and Chris to roll up some oil drums, spent the day writing letters and sorting photos to send home. Nearly everyone is now frantically trying to catch up their letter writing for the mail.

Just learned this evening Biscoe will be staying at Deception tonight and tomorrow night, gives us a bit more chance.

Tuesday 18th March

Bath night tonight. Did a couple of balloons with Al G otherwise letter writing most of the day. Apart from getting the news letter up to date that's just about cleared the correspondence.



Features

Wednesday 19th March

Topped the bathroom tank up in the morning. Quite a fine rainbow on and off all morning. Helped Alan P and Chris repair some windows in Sparrow house this afternoon. The first daffodil has come out today.

Thursday 20th March

On met today. Now two daffodils are out. Another day of real antarctic weather, strong winds, not gale though, and drifting snow.

Biscoe came in this evening, has apparently been running before 80-90 knot gale, no one could get ashore though. Wens is promising to row or swim if they don't get a boat here tomorrow.

Got a fair amount of my newsletter written on night watch but I doubt if it will be ready to go this time.

Friday 21st March

Got up to find the boys ashore from the Biscoe. Norman was back again having finished on Livingstone Island, Hugh has returned to us from Base O. until the Biscoe comes in again, when he will be going out with Alan P and we will be on our own at last.

The boat took our radio gear, empty oil drums and last year's met stats. and Wens, of course the scow stuck aground as usual and everyone including Wens had to get out before it could be refloated. It seems he's not intended to leave here. The last boat went back aboard before lunch as they were sailing, so they said, at 11:00, however it was gone midnight before they eventually picked up the hook.

Had a very interesting film show this evening, Ted Ross's mail turned up here and included three processed colour films he had taken in Stanley and Grytviken, so we took the liberty of looking at them first, since the packets aren't sealed.

Our new dogs have arrived, two six-week-old pups Petal and Statham, named after Pete Catlow and Dave Statham at Base J, and five dogs between four and eight months old, Tess, Nymph, Lobo, and Eddie plus Debbie whom we picked up at Signy on the Shackleton.



Petal

*Tink and
Statham*



Saturday 22nd March

Quite a good gale all day today, gusting up to 60 knots, therefore apart from scrubout, very little done. Chris helped Alan P bring up some ice and very neatly time-marked the barograph when they came in the door.

Sunday 23rd March

Geoff on cook. Wind still high, galing on and off. Alan P, Robin and Chris went to the Plaza to take pictures !! ? Hugh blown back from his plane-abling on Flagstaff Glacier.

I took advantage of a quiet afternoon to add to my screed for home.

Monday 24th March

Al G and I played with a few balloons in the morning and then brought Xenon down, combed him out, and fed him a bowl of milk.

Started to fit a new top to the bench in the balloon shed, as usual created far more work, the whole lot came down.

Alan P catching up on his printing before he goes home and Robin filling up photographic register.

Tuesday 25th March

On met today. --- Filthy weather as usual when I'm on.

Everyone making things indoors, I made a holder for the sea temp thermometer, Chris is making a porch roof to fit outside the front door, as it lets snow in during a northerly gale, and Robin is making a sort of chicken run affair to catch skuas in, for ringing.

Features

Wednesday 26th March

Sometime after I'd turned in early this morning, I was awoken by Hugh and found my whole bed tipped up at the front and tilted over. Apparently Hugh had been dreaming he was shut up in a box and was trying to lift the lid off, it was only when he tried to push my bed back into place, having woken and realised what he'd done, that he found I was in it, still sound asleep.

Hugh, Allan G and I went up onto W. Stenhouse Glacier this morning and spent all day there helping Hugh survey his flags, and measure snowfall.

The pups followed until the going got too hard. I had a bit of difficulty with the crampons at first, on a very steep hard slope but after that it was great fun, roped up, with the leader gingerly poking ahead with his ice axe, carefully edging along between the crevasses, sometimes stepping over the narrower ones.

Very impressive, standing on this vast, moving, mass of ice and to look down the crevasses, wonderful blue and green grottoes.

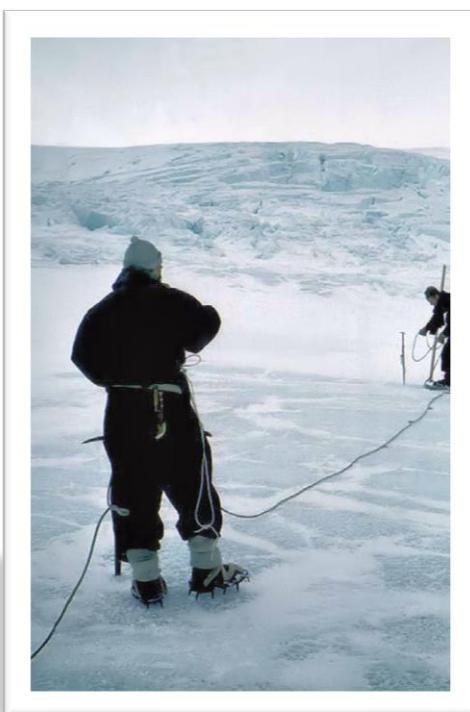
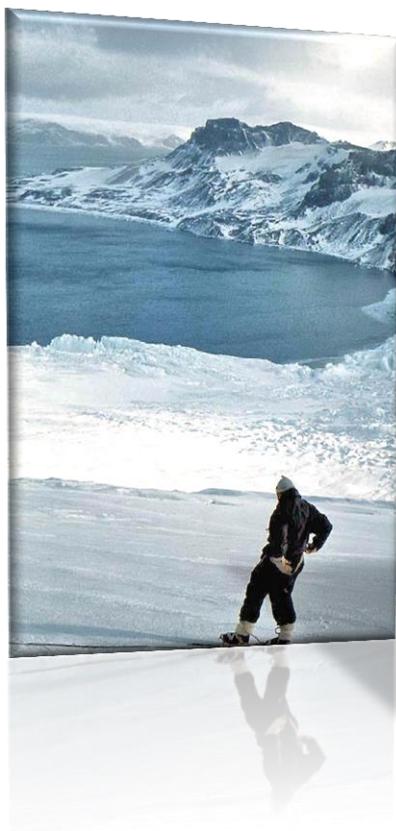
As far as is known at present these crevasses can only go to 120ft deep, as then the pressure is so great as to hold any cracks shut.

While on the glacier we heard and saw the boat go out, guessed they were after seal, but only heard one shot, thought they might have done pretty well though, as they went in and then put out a second time. However when we got back we learnt the reason for this; they'd (Tink and Chris) gone out the first time and got right up to the seal before Tink discovered he'd not got the bolt in the rifle. (!) Net result of this grand hunting trip, one seal.

Thursday 27th March

Hurriedly topped up the bathroom tank this morning, after my bath last night, to be ready to go out with Hugh again, but trip temporarily postponed till after lunch as he's going in the boat to Stenhouse Bluff and the wind was rather high.

Got going OK after lunch, went to O'Connor's rock first to do some more plane tabling, then on to the Bluff with Tink driving. Having landed and pulled up the boat we first crossed to one of Hugh's flags then went on up to another near the nunatak between E. and W. Stenhouse, then dropped down into the wind scoop around the nunatak, where Hugh measured the ice layers. He first climbed to the top of the ice cliff, then abseiled down measuring each layer as he came, the total height of the cliff being 60ft.



Tink & Hugh on W. Stenhouse Glacier



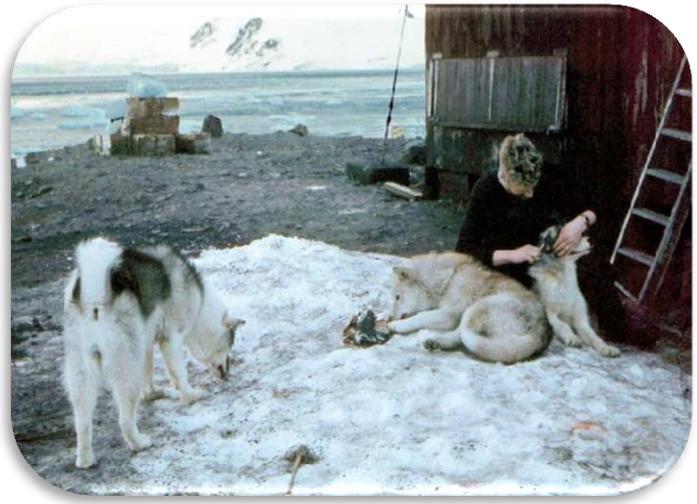
**Stenhouse
Bluff Windscoop**

This scoop extends about a third of the way round the nunatak, which rises about 150 ft from the floor, and spirals down quite steeply having a maximum width of about 100 ft. Its amazing to think that wind and heat radiation from the dark rock can produce such a trough.

Features

Friday 28th March

The decision has been made. The pups went on the span this morning. Tink, Chris and I between us fitted their collars, of which they were quite proud, but when it came to the chains they nearly went frantic.



Poor things, it seems terribly hard to deprive them of their liberty so suddenly but it's become quite essential as someone saw Ace mounting one of them this morning and they are much too young yet and it might do them harm. Consequently, Ace has been chained up as well, much to his disgust.

Hugh out on W. Stenhouse again this afternoon with Al G and Chris.

Saturday 29th March

A typical English type summer's day, everyone pottering around indoors after scrub out. I brought the sunrise times up to date, Robin mended his skua trap which blew away last night. Tink locked in the darkroom all afternoon, a developing character !

Chris has taken the Mk2 out, to try and cure the oil leak, (again). Ordered a slide projector from Binnie's. Rain 4.6mm; disgusting.

Sunday 30th March

On met today. Gash hand this week. Al G on cook.

Chris finished, and we all turned to, to put the infernal machine back. Success !

Weather cleared, but last night produced another 4.4 mm rain, might as well have stayed at home.

Celebrated Palm Sunday this evening in high spirits, bottled spirits and potted music.

Tink broke a record over his head, then tried to put a match out with the blast from the gramophone turned full up.

Was going to finish my letter as a buzz from the radio shack, says Biscoe has left Stanley, but Geoff, Al G, and Tink helped me to keep my watch and I could hardly be so unsociable as to leave or ignore their company. Well, it was a good excuse anyway.

Robin's skua trap blew away again (ha! ha!) irreparable this time.

Monday 31st March

A wonderful sunny day but much too warm, temp on the Square Box roof at midday was 55°F. All took advantage of this to work outside.

Re-covered the Square Box roof, that is, Tink, Robin Chris and Alan P did while I repaired the greenhouse, in between fetching and carrying for them.

Alan P and I did a record balloon in the afternoon 51,500 ft. Increasing cirrus heralded an approaching warm front which duly arrived this evening. Mean temp 32.3°F Max 48°F Min 19°F

F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st March to 30th April 1958

Base G, Admiralty Bay 1st to 31st March

During the first half of the month the weather was mainly dull and in the second half there was a cold spell with temperatures in the low twenties. This was followed by warm periods with temperatures going up to 40oF.

Sealing trips were made but only four Leopard seals were shot. A skua trap was constructed but this was damaged in the high winds. Part of the hut roof was re-rubberoided and work commenced on new dog spanning arrangements.

The R.R.S. 'John Biscoe' arrived on the 21st March and left the following day.

Features

Tuesday 1st April

Renew drinking licence. Several people with a warped sense of humour tried to tell Al G and I it was time to get up in the morning and that our watches must be wrong. Anyway we did get up as Hugh was going up on the glacier again and Al G was being let off cook so that he and I could go with him.

Had a good day, right up to the top and along the Plateau where the top bergschrunds form. Fine weather apart from occasional stratus on the Plateau itself. Found two of Hugh's flags and brought them back.



Robin and Chris have brought the dogs down to the new span and put in the second post of the other new span. They seem to have had some trouble when the dogs went after a penguin on the beach and the bottle screw came undone, releasing the whole lot. Tink has been playing cowboys with the revolver and now can't hear anything, probably just as well.

Wednesday 2nd April

Put in some gash-hand work this morning and caught up on my share of the stats during the afternoon. Tink and Al G have been working late the last couple of nights on the 3206's and finished enough today to get the CLIMAT out. -- Hugh is locked away in his office, as he has been every moment when he wasn't actually out on the glacier, writing up his year's work.

Thursday 3rd April

On met today. Maundy Thursday -- Still warm weather I'm afraid, just can't seem to persuade the temp to fall.

Al G made a chocolate layer cake this afternoon and I helped by making the cream filling and icing, also put tiddly bits on the clacker for dinner.

Friday 4th April

'Good' type. -- Arose for lunch. Gash hand duties in the afternoon then settled down to some work for Hugh. He had asked me to check his calculations in his year's measurements of the glacier, turned up a couple of slight errors but in the main the result is still the same, viz. THE ICE CAP IS SHRINKING.

Tink has been helping Geoff to concrete his roadway into the Square Box. Robin made some black and white slides and gave us a film show this evening.

Saturday 5th April

Income tax year ends. --- Scrub out day. As gash hand I scrub out the living room, so I really went to town and washed down the walls and doors and windows as well. -- Put in some time on my letter this afternoon, Tink is in the same mood in the met office.

Robin making more slides, so I took the opportunity to watch how it's done, as I intend doing some of my own now I've got a projector coming. This evening when the slides were done 'the author lectured on Japan' interspersed with the Goon Show, on which Gray came up for a chat.

Sunday 6th April

Easter egg day. On cook this week Al G gash hand.

Both of us worked on topping up the kitchen tank, as I hadn't done it yesterday, due to waiting for the weather to improve, which of course it didn't.

Features

Robin has been cleaning his slides with some magic solution, the ritual for which seems to include throwing most of them in the fire.

Made some fine hot cross buns, better late than never. Chris and Tink brought in a seal this morning, so there was fresh liver for dinner.

Monday 7th April

Bank holiday. Most of the lads bringing in one of the coal piles, now there's room in the coal cellar. Geoff and Robin spoke with the Chilean base on Greenwich Is. over the RT this evening, just a natter between friends they stayed with on the last trip.

The pups are twelve weeks old, at least Petal is, Statham's only 11, so they can now run free.

After a big session on my letters this afternoon, to the detriment of the cooking, I've managed to complete them including the Christmas Card list.

Tuesday 8th April

F.W. (3d and 6d) Woolworth died. Very little happening at the moment, Alan P and Hugh packing to leave and most everyone else writing letters. Made a shortbread in the afternoon. Scrumptious!

Wednesday 9th April

Lenin born. More letter writing, Biscoe due tomorrow. I've finished off my news letter and a couple of other letters, so now there's nothing to do until the boat comes in.

Thursday 10th April

Biscoe held up at Hope Bay, won't arrive here until tomorrow evening. More frantic energy being applied to letter writing.

We now seem to be getting the weather under control again, temperatures down and a fair amount of snow.

Friday 11th April

Last minute attempt by one and all to complete their mail, the Post Office opened after morning tea break Al P and Hugh tying up their bundles and all of us generally checking everything ready that has to go out this time.

John Biscoe arrived 20:00 and took everyone off for a film and farewell drinks, Graham has returned and two outward bound FIDS came ashore with him to look after things in our absence. Quite a fair party in the wardroom, but the film was one off the Shackleton with Jack Hawkins in again.

Opened up our mail on board, a poor lot, only one letter for me, and no one else did much better. My projector not present, but is probably with one of the Fids.



Features

Saturday 12th April

Spent last night on board, then got marooned till after lunch due to bad weather.

Eventually got ashore with a scow load of gear, mainly replacements for that damaged on Shackleton. As soon as Al P and Hugh were ready the boat pushed off and the Biscoe sailed at 15:00.

After a cup of tea, everyone turned to, to carry up the stores from the beach, whilst I prepared the dinner and did a quick brush up job in the living room since today's scrub out has gone by the board.

Collected my projector on board this morning from Dick ? of met office Stanley. He had also brought me some replacement thermos and two stop watches, and a spare barometer, unfortunately he only had time for a short visit ashore to see how we're making out. I'll probably think of dozens of things, I could have asked him, tomorrow.

A quiet evening, fairly early to bed, Seems strange without Al P around, but I think we're all rather glad to see the stern of the last ship go out through the gates.

Sunday 13th April

Tink cook. Chris gash hand this week. Low Sunday. Got down to unpacking right away and finished and tidied up the mess by afternoon tea.

Plenty more fags and chocolate and lime juice in the canteen stores, some more books and all the photographic paper and chemicals again as well as stationery etc.

A crate of met gear repeated and another crate of balloons, we now have so many balloons that they are being used as cushions and general playthings, while calculations are being made, to perform an airlift on the stores up to Depot Hill.

I gave a film show by kind permission of messrs Gill and Stephens. Very pleased with the picture making machine.

Got in some skiing this afternoon, first time for ages, almost had to start from the beginning.

Monday 14th April

On met today. -- Big clanger, woke up at 09:30, used one of the new alarm clocks, it seems they don't work until they have been kicked around a bit.

The weather behaving very well, minimum last night 18.3oF, plenty of snow too, good for the skiing. Al G did a balloon on his own, quite successfully while I tried to catch up with myself.

Some good skiing this afternoon, Al G, Chris, myself, Robin and Geoff all out on the nursery slope. Coming on.

Geoff, Robin and Graham had another sched with the Chileans on Greenwich I. and we are going to do this same time every week.

The Biscoe came up on the Goon Show for the last time.

Tuesday 15th April

Al G and I polished off the adding up on last month's stats, up to afternoon tea, then the ski school went out again. Chris is making fine progress, with me and Al G it seems slower but it's coming.

Heard the first of the BBC Fids programmes this evening, although a bit late by the time Geoff managed to find the right frequency. Tink had a message from home; since these are done alphabetically I shall be some time yet.

Wednesday 16th April

Peter Ustinov's birthday --- Made three snow poles ready to put out on the beach, if and when we can cement them in, also helped Robin with a couple of balloons, one in the morning and another in the afternoon.

Looks like we've got a warm front approaching from all the signs.

The ski school out again after tea this afternoon, progress but still rather slow, I suppose it will come all of a sudden.

Thursday 17th April

On met today. Kruschev's birthday.

Galing most of the day, so stayed in and did some paper work.

Geoff is fiddling around trying to make the new Bush receiver work, with the idea of installing it in the kitchen. I'm sure that won't help the cooking.

Robin has drawn up a design for a couch in the living room, very fine but I wonder will it ever get done.

Features

Friday 18th April

Gray and Chris set off early on a day's surveying first to Stenhouse Bluff and then to the top of Tern Nanatak.

Robin and I fixed the snow poles this afternoon, the ground and even the moss on top was as hard as concrete so we did it without cement, just poured water in as we filled the hole. This should hold them pretty well, they're down about two feet.

Gray and Chris got back just before dinner and as we went down to help them in I saw a seal on the beach, so went back for the gun. Unfortunately it was only a youngster, leopard, I think, but as we are so short and need all we can get I shot it. Seal steak tomorrow.

Hope tomorrow's fine as Gray is planning to go to Ezcurra for a couple of days and I am to go with him. Geoff installing wireless in kitchen.

Saturday 19th April

Not fine enough to go I'm afraid, and now the Mk3 generator has packed up, so Chris won't be able to do cook next week, Gray will be on instead which just about caps the trip for a while.

Ski school out again in the afternoon. Geoff still fiddling about with wireless.

Sunday 20th April

On met today. Gray cook. Tink gash hand.

Dog feeding this week with Al G.

Al G and I skiing most of the day, Chris out with us later in the afternoon.

Tink sorting out the sledge rations from the Shackleton, a good deal of it has gone off and what is still edible has been brought in to the store.

Geoff still! fixing the wireless in the kitchen.

Fed the dogs on the biscuits from the sledge boxes.

Gray has resurrected the dart board and this has become all the rage, despite danger to life and limb.

Monday 21st April

The Queen's birthday.

Measured up all the armoured cable we have and find that with the new drum and that installed on the wind vane we have enough to reach the anemo tower.

Weather not fit to start on this though, so we all worked indoors, Al G sorted his canteen stores in the loft, while I assembled the spare thermograph and put it in the living room for calibrating against the other one.

Geoff still!! fixing wireless.

Tuesday 22nd April

All day laying out the armoured cable and fixing up to the top of the anemo tower, ready to pick up the direction indicator and speed generator.

The latter has apparently taken an objection to being tampered with and has packed

*'Sparrow House' &
old Anemometer
Tower*



Features

Fids programme tonight, two record requests for us, one of Robin's and one Geoff's. Geoff has now got the wireless in operation so we had the programme in the living room and the kitchen; also heard a programme from the Brussels Fair.

Wednesday 23rd April

St George's Day. Shakespeare born and died.

Made good progress with the cable to the anemo tower, and Geoff has soldered up one joint despite a rather chill day.

Al and Tink taking a boat load of man rations to a depot round the other side, this afternoon. Came back to say they had shot one seal but had not gutted it or fetched it back, so Rob and Tink walked over before dinner to get it.

Thursday 24th April

On met. Disconnected the old wind vane and hauled the cable down into position for Geoff to make the join, which he managed under somewhat warmer conditions.

By late evening all was connected, including the telephone to the balloon hut and apart from orientating the wind vane everything is working fine.

Tink and Rob made two more journeys round to the depot with rations and paraffin, returning with yesterday's seal. Chris has now finished work on the engine and the heavy gang put it back, complete with a new alternator.

Being a rather warm day, the Glacier Gods have been very angry, saw one enormous fall that continued for two or three minutes. These falls are the first for sometime, now the winter is coming and temps dropping the glaciers just advance into the water instead of calving.

Geoff has had all his hair off head and face, looks like a worn out scrubber.

Friday 25th April

Bound up the second joint in the cable, as now this should be a permanent job, so much better than DON 8 which is always breaking.

Al and I orientated the wind vane this afternoon, the telephone was a great help in this, then did a balloon to 11,000 ft.

Put the spare thermograph out in the screen having given it a good test run indoors. This will provide an interesting comparison with the DRT.

Saturday 26th April

Scrub out in the morning.

Ski school out again this afternoon, good progress on left hand turns but no idea on the right hand.

Quite a few penguins about today, all Gentoos, the others seem to have left by now.

Sunday 27th April

Chris on cook. In bed till lunch time.

Skiing again all afternoon, made good progress on the right hand turns this time.

Geoff wants this month's air letters in tonight, must see if I can manage to write 100 words.

Monday 28th April

On met. Mutiny of 'The Bounty'. Indoor weather today, did some paper work in the office. Al and Tink working on the stats.

Tuesday 29th April

More indoor work, brought the 3207's and Sunshine forms up to date. Tink and Al in the office on the 3206's.

Fids programme in the evening, Al had a record request, an Eartha Kitt.

I finished off the sea temp thermometer holder by fitting a metal guard around the bulb.

Geoff is playing with his motor bike again, has it all in pieces around the workshop.

Robin and Chris happily concocting mixtures in the kitchen this evening, Rob has made some excellent toffee and Chris, some chocolate fudge.

Wednesday 30th April

Real Antarctic type weather today, at 09:10 hrs the temp started to fall and in 15 minutes had dropped 11°, at midnight it is 2.2°F and still falling.

Everyone working inside again today, Tink and Al finishing the 3206's, got the CLIMAT off at midnight.

Features

I finished my stats and Robin is making another bird trap, this time for sheathbills, out of an old metal water tank stand, perhaps this one won't blow away.

Chris encouraged by last night's success has made some turkish delight, but the sugar in it has given it a rather musty taste. The sugar off the Shackleton all got damp and is steadily getting worse so we have now decided to shelve it, we've just about got enough of last year's and emergency stores to manage till next summer.

Mean temp 29.5°F Max 42°F Min 04°F

F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st March to 30th April 1958

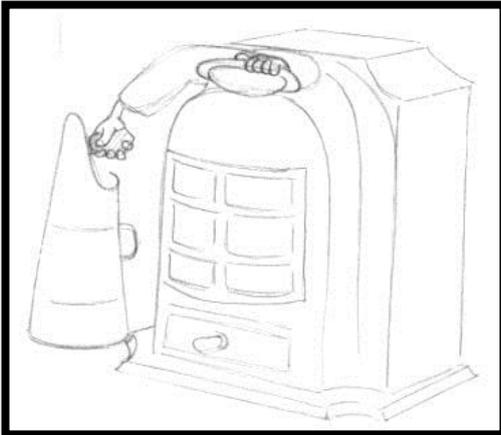
1st to 30th April

During the first part of the month there was snow followed by a fine cold spell. The second half was mostly cloudy with snow and temperatures below zero.

The R.R.S. 'John Biscoe' called on the 11th and disembarked G.J. Davey from Greenwich Island and embarked A. Precious and H. Noble both en route for Stanley. Precious is homeward bound but Noble is making his own way home via South America. The 'Biscoe' left the Base on the 12th.

A survey trip was made by Davey, accompanied by Souter, to Stenhouse Bluff and Tern Nunatak. This trip was made by boat. Three boat journeys were made to McKellar Depot with sledge stores. The dogs were moved to a new span on the beach. The coal bunker was filled. The Mk 3 engine sheared its flywheel and this necessitated a complete rebuild. The engine is now running again with a new 45

(to be continued)



At Halley 1 1967 - even the cook was cold

What the cook was smelling, only he knew.



Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

It is always the intention of the magazine to produce some form of remembrance of any deceased member. It can be a full-length obituary, an "in memoriam" letter, or a tribute from a close friend or colleague, with their thoughts and anecdotes. Members may submit letters and tributes at any time – even after a formal obituary has been published

**CAPTAIN EDMUND MALCOLM STUART
PHELPS 2017
Polar Medal, OBE - 2016**

A tribute from Bill Block

I have very happy memories of voyages on the *RRS John Biscoe* with Malcolm in command. However, my over-riding memory is during the 1971-72 season when he was the First Officer on the ship. I was a visiting scientist from Leicester University working at Signy and South Georgia with Peter Tilbook. I had sustained a leg injury during relief and I was to be medivaced out of Signy in mid-December 1971. The *John Biscoe* was re-routed to take me to Stanley for a check-up.

Unfortunately there was tight pack ice in Factory Cove and Captain John Cole got the ship in as close as he could and despatched the ship's launch to pick me up from the beach near the fuel pump house.

I was duly loaded onto the launch which took some time returning to the ship, bumping its way through the floes. Malcolm was as at the rail and the launch was hoisted up level with the deck so I could crawl out. It was my first experience of the Antarctic!

On board I was given a single cabin and was in the tender care of Dr Steve Vallance as I was confined to my bunk for most of the time.

Steaming up to South Georgia the time dragged and Malcolm visited me each day to see how I was getting on. We had numerous chats and he would bring me the ship's news (and all the Fid rumours which were circulating!). He was very caring and arranged for me to borrow music tapes (mostly classical ones from the Radio Operator, Bob Wade) and books, which helped me enormously.

We spent New Year tied up at the jetty at Husvik. By this time my leg had improved sufficiently for me to hobble around the ship a bit and Malcolm ensured that I got out onto the fore deck for the midnight celebrations. It snowed and in the ship's lights the youngest crew member rang in the New Year on the ship's bell – an

image which I was privileged to experience and shall never forget.

On a lighter note, in later years during Malcolm's captaincy of the *John Biscoe*, I was on board when we spent a few days patrolling around Coronation Island in storm conditions avoiding the worst of the weather as we were unable to land at Signy.

Malcolm invited several of the Fids to dinner in the ward room during this rather rough passage. One evening with the ship rolling heavily we were entertained with wine at the meal. There was a toast (not sure to what or to whom), our glasses were raised and we rolled - I found myself sliding helplessly across the ward room floor upright in my chair with glass raised!

Malcolm, who only drank water on these occasions, was first out of his chair helping me to my feet and enquiring if my wine had spilt!

I did wonder afterwards who had unhooked my chair from the floor, but it was a good laugh all round.

Malcolm was a most compassionate and caring man with a wicked, dry sense of humour, for whom I, like many others, had enormous respect.

Bill Block

DAVID CRANSFIELD ----- -2017

Ionosphericist, IGY Halley Bay 1957 - 1958

Memories by Les Barclay

David Cansfield, along with Bill Bellchambers and myself, were the ionospheric team for IGYE.

After the unloading in January 1957, our first major job was the erection of eight 52ft masts for the two rhombic antennas (one directed at London the other at Stanley) and the 78 ft mast for the ionospheric sounder antenna, together with all the feeder runs back to the hut.

When we got the equipment going then we had a three week shift system throughout the IGY with one of us working nights as required. As a part of the process then was the hourly or quarter-hourly ionospheric sounder schedule, the

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

photographic development of the paper sounder records, and the analysis of the ionograms. We also had other routine tasks for measuring ionospheric absorption and drifts.

Although we were excellently looked after by the cooks, we had a voluntary rota for a few of us making bread, including David, and I attach two pictures of him doing that.



Memories from David Harrison

David got leave from ICI to join the Royal Society IGY Expedition and I think it is to the credit of the firm that they allowed this.

I first worked with David in erecting a heavy steel tower to support a rotating aerial for my equipment which I could never have done on my own.

A nice bit of theatre occurred when Col Smart called me in because his guidance said it was now time to call the full base together to arrange how to put the heavy gearbox onto this tower. It was good to point out that the gearbox was already in position but I should say that David and I benefited from the advice of the resident engineer at Jodrell Bank who at that time was working on the rather larger structure of the Radio Telescope.

I learned more of David's earlier and later life at his funeral in Follyfoot. In particular he had studied Theology to the extent that he eventually took an MA. He was I think a Church Warden at Follyfoot and I enjoyed it at the Funeral when the Vicar said that she would have had less confidence in her earlier sermons if she had been aware of his qualification.

I have attached a photo of David in Emperor Penguin Bay. The emperor has

probably never seen a human before but could be asking why they have not been properly introduced.



JENNIE DARLINGTON 1924-2017

By Keith Holmes

Drummy Small recently drew my attention to news in the Washington Post, (September 11th) that Jennie Darlington had died, aged 93, on August 30th.



Seventy years ago, Jennie Darlington and Jackie Ronne became the first two women to winter in the Antarctic, having accompanied their

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

respective husbands Harry, and Finn, to Stonington Island where the two men had themselves already wintered in 1940-41 as members of the United States Antarctic Services Expedition. This time, Finn had organised his own expedition. Jackie's presence had perhaps been more predetermined than Jennie's because the latter's intention was primarily to enjoy a honeymoon with Harry on the first part of the journey south.

1947, was, to say the least, an interesting year in Antarctic history, not only because of the presence of the two ladies, but also because the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey had set up its own Base E on Stonington Island in 1946, and Finn was outraged to discover that the British were established on this small island within a few hundred yards of the old base that he was to use. A plethora of books (by Kevin Walton, Dick Butson, Tommy Thompson, Jennie Darlington, Finn Ronne, and Jackie Ronne) describe the tense situation, not only between the two national groups, but also between the two husbands, and between the two wives. The combined exploration achievements were nevertheless remarkable, although not exactly groundbreaking because Ronne and Darlington had made epic journeys far down the western and eastern flanks of the Antarctic Peninsula on the earlier expedition.

Those of us who were on the Marguerite Bay 2000 cruise aboard the *Lyobov Orlova* were lucky to meet Bob Dodson, who was acting as guide and had participated, with Jennie, in Ronne's Antarctic Research Expedition. We were fascinated to hear his first-hand account of that 1947 season. In the Washington Post article, he described Jennie's role as a "Morale Booster", something that many of us who followed had often thought about. He and I later brought together, at Mystic, Connecticut, as many as we could of the American and British who had wintered in 1947. Relations between Jackie and Jennie were still cool, and Jennie declined to join us on learning that Jackie had accepted. Happily, I met her eventually in London, and at her winter home in Florida, hoping to learn more about Harry's pioneering east coast journey in 1940, but she had nothing significant because he had been the carefree younger assistant to the Geologist Paul Knowles, who had the responsibility of keeping a diary and the formal records.

Jennie was a very interesting, self-assured, and gracious lady.

JIM EXLEY 1932 -2016

Geologist, Horseshoe Island 1955-1956



Obituary by Malcom Evans

It is now 61 years since I met Jim Exley when I arrived at Horseshoe Island in 1956. He was one of the first year there, a figure of mystic lore and knowledge.

Born in 1932, in Mirfield, Yorkshire, into a political family, he studied Geology at Nottingham University (where I sat my First Medical Exam) He served in the O.T.C. (Officers Training Corps), put to carrying the P.I.A.T. Projector Infantry Anti Tank gun) as he was a big strong lad even then.

His later tendencies were foreshadowed by his participation in a University Expedition to Iceland. A tragic accident during that time caused him to give great consideration to contingency planning throughout his time south.

He travelled south with the 'Norsel' and helped build Base Y, living in tents at first. It is now a World Heritage Site.

Jim was taught sledging by Brian Kemp, the experienced hand, who drove from the right hand side of the sledge, so that when Jim taught me he, in turn, did it from the left side, so I always drove from the right.

Throughout the rest of our lives we kept the same positions in politics too. He kept to the left and I kept to the right. More or less.

In addition to his work as geologist he became the "Dog Man". He drove the Admirals in their middle years and developed a strong affection for Banshee, their then Leader, by whom he swore. As well as at !

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

I acted, as what is known here in Australia as his 'Fieldy', driving the sledge and acting as his back up while he took Geological observations and samples. Memories of eating our pemmers in the tent at night, and playing antique card games until our fingers grew too cold and stiff to hold the cards.



We had a year of very unreliable sea ice, so he designed and built a practical conversion kit to make a boat from a sledge, the plans for which were published in the Polar Record in 1958. It was surprisingly stable. I never found out if he knew whether or not the kit was carried by the party that was lost.

Following the time in the Antarctic he worked up his results under Ray Aidié. This was not a happy time.

Later took to teaching in Yorkshire, meeting and marrying Margaret, a fellow teacher. They had a daughter and a son.

Later he moved to Outdoor Activities, sailing mainly, near Bedford.

Over the years we had many short excursions, skiing in Switzerland and Scotland, walking in Yorkshire, sailing on the East coast and we climbed Ayre's Rock in Central Australia.

He wrote and published poems on subjects near to his heart, Dogs and Cars.

The later years were unhappy. Margaret, then his son, died tragically and his last years were spent in care.

He died in June 2017 in London, survived by a daughter and two Grandchildren. Throughout the years since we met I know of no more reliable and steadfast person than my friend Jim.

The world is a poorer place for his passing.

(Photos Malcolm Evans)

STEVE NORRIS - 2017
RRS Bransfield – Electrical Engineer

Eulogy by Stuart Lawrence given at his funeral

Steve, Chris, Holly, immediate family, friends.

I am sure that we all wish that it was Steve standing here as sixty eight is far too young to die. If it was Steve he would start by saying, and I quote "That reminds me of" which would be followed by one of Steve's famously amusing anecdotes which, whilst always somewhat embellished, were always based on a factual event.

His equally famous Christmas missives were always looked forward to with keen anticipation and anyone who has kept them would have the start of what would indeed be a most entertaining biography.

However it is with a true story of Steve's life at sea that I wish to continue.

It was whilst he was Senior Electrical Officer serving with me on the Royal Research Ship Bransfield that on the evening of the 20th February, 1994, whilst the Bransfield on passage between the British Antarctic Survey Halley Scientific Station in 75 degrees South on the coast of the Weddell Sea and Signy Station, in the South Orkney Islands, that a fire was reported in the main propulsion motor.

This turned out to be caused by the burn out of the forward half of the main propulsion motor bringing the vessel to a complete standstill. As the ship was still within areas of drifting pack ice and with the presence of several large icebergs, this was not a happy situation for me, the ship and her 30 crew and 60 passengers, so I decided to call upon the assistance of our sister ship the James Clark Ross. Her Captain Nick Beer, who is with us this afternoon, immediately broke off her scientific cruise to come to our aid with a view to towing us to Stanley in the Falkland Islands, however she was approximately 4 days steaming away from us leaving us drifting in this dangerous environment.

Hence a counsel of war was with all those on board personnel with any electrical or

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

engineering knowledge as to whether we could help ourselves. It was at this meeting that Steve proposed the potential partial solution that provided the forward half of the motor could be electrically and physically removed from the propulsion shaft, the ship should be able to proceed on low power utilising just the after half of the motor. So whilst all the seamen were preparing for the Bransfield to be taken in tow, all the electrical personnel, under Steve's supervision, and all the engineering personnel, under the supervision of the Chief Engineer, from amongst the crew and the passengers set to undertake the quite enormous task of the electrical and physical disconnection working a 10 hour day.

Meanwhile the ship was drifting around the Weddell Sea with little danger from the surrounding pack ice but with the very likely possibility of playing pinball with the surrounding large icebergs, such that on the 23rd February with the ship drifting ever closer to one of the larger icebergs it was agreed that round the clock work would commence.

Amazingly at around 7 on the evening of the 24th, with the ship lying close under the shadow of the iceberg, I was mightily relieved to receive a call from both Steve and the Chief Engineer that they were happy to attempt to turn the main propulsion shaft on just the after half of the motor. At this time the James Clark Ross was about one hour away. So immediately the twin diesel prime movers were started and the after half of the main motor was connected electrically under Steve's watchful eye, turning slowly at first, then more and more quickly until I received, the message that I had been waiting for 4 days to receive, that all was now well for us to proceed under our own power. So having advised the James Clark Ross of the changed circumstances, stood down the towing party, organised the champagne for the electrical and engineering team, we were able to proceed slowly astern of the James Clark Ross until well clear of all ice, but this time sensibly towards Stanley in the Falkland Islands, where we safely arrived on the evening of the 3rd of March. With the remainder of our support tasks being taken over by the James Clark Ross we then commenced our slow speed return home finally arriving, much relieved and mainly thanks to Steve, on 20th April.

So yes it should be no wonder that Steve is one of my Antarctic Heroes.

As a final word on Steve's character, when I visited him in hospital, for what turned out to be our last meeting, as he knew that he was dying, one of the pieces of news that I had to pass to him was that one of my fellow British Antarctic Survey Captains, with whom Steve had served for a lengthy period on the John Biscoe, was dying. Steve insisted that I pass on his best wishes.

What a true and loyal friend.

Steve's OBITUARY by his son Chris – given at the funeral

Kind, friendly, likeable, lovely, enjoyable, gentle, dedicated, interesting, adventurous, generous, clever, knowledgeable, funny, raconteur, great, hero, legend and father

Single words that spoke volumes about a man who gave so much yet asked for so little

Now imagine being his son... Imagine being raised by the man who downed his tools at the dockyard and decided to go travelling around the world, to open his eyes to other places, cultures, languages, climates and friends.....meeting so many friends. over the years.

He's got friends all over the world you know!!!! ...None in the country, but all over the world

Obviously making the long and treacherous journey to the bottom of the world wasn't challenging enough for him so he decided to enter the world of marriage with a bonus child to raise

He knew what to do, didn't need a manual to take on a 6 year old boy....child's play?

His first teachings were that the no. 18 on a movie certificate was just a number and"that I would enjoy Alien on his OHP".....and I did...right up to that moment I ran gagging to the bathroom, when John Hurt's meal decided to burst out of his belly button" felt sick for a fortnight....

Then came the Swimming lessonsor Let go of the side lessons, to be accurate

Jogging (yes he was a runner in his prime) and trying to teach me football by taking me down to Southsea Common, bribed with a coke and a bag of crisps at the pub on the way home.....tried to get me into football by taking

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

me to see Pompey.....in the 4th Division? Good idea wasn't it?

Finally sparking my love for the game with my 1st Panini sticker book, and set of Top Trump cards. The rest was a job well done, as we later enjoyed watching many games together. down the years and he was with me at Wembley when Pompey won the cup in colour!

- He built my model railways for me
- Taught me my times tables,
- Took me to cubs,
- Gave me the world....showed me Brunei, Singapore, Oman
- adapt, embrace new life and expand my knowledge, interests and passions, one of which was to travel and meet new friends....again just like Steve

And one of my favourite holidays was with you in Oman, another paradise in your life, with more great friends.

This all inspired me to go and travel, see this amazing world as you did.

I met my future wife in Australia, and have 2 wonderful children with her.....and its all your fault!!!

Throughout his life, he'd always try to be there, to help, humour, teach, listen, laugh and even cry, through good times and bad, yet always right to the end with his gentle smile. A smile that I would give anything to see one more time!

So I stand here saddened, humbled and indebted to you, and hope that when my time comes, if I leave this earth half the man you were I'd be happy!

So goodbye and thank you so much great man, father and friend. Whilst you are in my head and my heart I'll always be with you. I love you. I'm proud of you, Your son. Always xxxx

Thank You From Louise Bacon

I first met Steve on Sunday 3rd October 1976. I was working in Cuzco in Peru at that time. I am an Objects Conservator and I was there to set up a laboratory for treating metal objects, mainly from archaeological excavations.

At a farewell lunch for Martin, one of the archaeologists, my diary entry for the day reads.... " *Connie (MacCorkle Silver, an American anthropologist) brought along Steve, an Englishman. Martin and Connie couldn't understand what we were laughing about all the time. English humour!*"... So from the start he had me laughing.

Steve had just finished a tour of duty in Antarctica and was working his way up through South America from his starting point in Punta Arenas.

I still have a copy of his 20 page report he wrote for future Antarctic travellers. He wrote a lot on security. He advised men " *..Don't keep anything in your back pockets. The only thing I kept in my back pocket was toilet paper and I had that stolen twice...*"

We kept in touch and over the following years we both moved around the world a bit until I settled down in London and he returned to Havant. We suffered various traumas during this time.

When I was living in Newcastle he came to stay on his way up to Scotland, when we had the police knocking at the door to tell him to phone home as his father had had a heart attack.

It's fascinating to think that this was in the days when there were no mobile phones and all his sister knew was where I was in Newcastle and that he was coming up - so what do you do, you call the local police station and ask them to pop round!

Fortunately his father survived that attack. Steve also happened to be staying with me when I got the telephone call from France that my Father had died. He was a good person to have around at a time like that.

We then met up regularly whether it was for one of my lunches in the garden (or in his), good Friday lunch and Easter egg hunt, cinema, going to exhibitions, or attending Antarctic 'things'.

I was fortunate to get to go to the James Caird Society dinners at Dulwich College which isn't far from me. Although I felt he shouldn't have been there he came up to stay with me for his birthday, the week he went into hospital.

He was bright yellow and very distended, but he was determined to go and see the James Caird in its new building, which we did. So I am pleased that he achieved that.

He left me on the Wednesday morning and by the Friday I had a text from him saying that his brother in law Peter had taken him into QA hospital.

Thank you Steve for being a dear friend and companion, a first class cat sitter, (Millie will miss you) a champion potato peeler and veg prepper. You were much missed last

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Good Friday and in homage we had unpeeled potatoes, and I shall miss your views on world happenings. You always had the news on, knew all the different broadcast teams from the BBC to Al Jazeera and researched items you doubted in the reports.

How I am going to get through 10 years of Brexit without you explaining the ins and outs of it all I don't know.

There isn't space to retell many anecdotes from 40 years. Steve was the raconteur. As he used to say every story was true just embellished slightly to make it funnier.

MIKE BUTLER 1955 – 2017

Cook, Rothera 1989 1991

By John Blunn



Mike passed away peacefully on Tuesday 3rd October 2017, aged 62 years. His funeral was at Our Lady and St. Patrick Church, Maesteg on 17th October 2017. The service was very well attended by many family and friends.

I spent two winters with Mike at Rothera. He was an absolutely solid professional cook who took his job and base responsibilities seriously, never letting anybody down. He filled his time with hobbies and most days, after preparing lunch, Mike exercised the dogs around the Point.

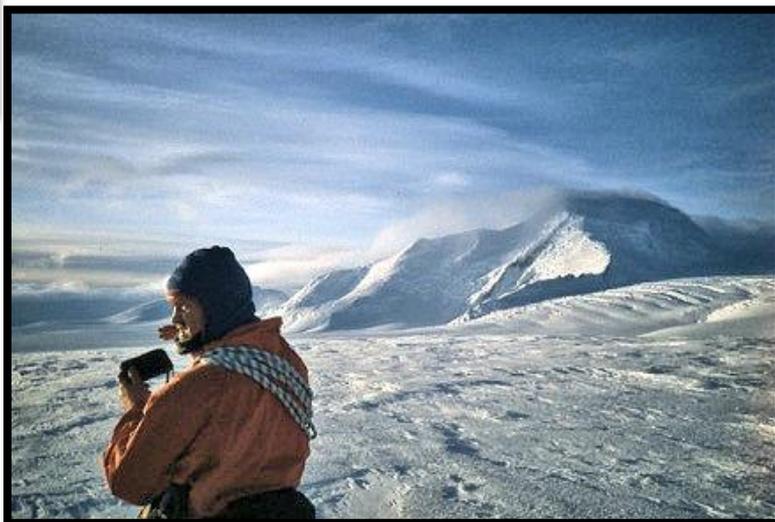
As a G.A. I had the pleasure in taking Mike on two winter trips. The first being with The Admirals dog team around Adelaide Island, experiencing poor weather, a lame dog and deep snow, we still managed to explore some interesting areas overlooking Stonehouse Bay.

The second trip, this time with skidoos, our destination was Mt. Velain at the very northern part of Adelaide Island renowned for it's poor weather. Mike was always up for a challenge.

Again we went to some interesting areas, the col between Mt. Reeves and Mt. Bouvier and the top of Bond nunatak, a reasonable attempt on Snake ridge Mount Bouvier and much wandering about on top of "The Wall" Buchia Buttress. All this despite five days lie-up, due to very high winds and no visibility.

November 1991, a few months after this trip, Mike experienced heart problems after carrying large bags of flour upstairs. The small base lift was out of action. We knew little of the details, but were concerned that Mike was out of action on light duties only, unable to cook and needing further treatment and investigation back in the UK.

Despite good intentions, and common to many friends made during those winters, we lost touch and never met again. Mike's family informed me that he often reminisced about his time at Rothera, the mid-winter photo hanging on his lounge wall. Given better health he would have been keen to do further seasons.



(Mike on the 'Wall' photo John Blunn)

Chris Lush, Radio Op. Rothera 1989-92.

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also managed to attend Mike's funeral at short notice, he had lost touch with fellow winterers also, so after 25 years it was good to meet and swap stories and speak to Mike's family about his time "South". A positive note on a very sad day.

Mike Butler was much loved by, and devoted to, his fiancé Christine, a loving son of Janet and Mick, a dearly loved brother of Tricia, Susan, Siân and Claire and dear brother-in-law and uncle.

Memories from Chris Lush,

I well remember the time Mike and I had a great day out on the sea ice in South bay. It was a Sunday and Mikes day off from kitchen duties, we had arranged, (in the bar the previous evening), to run 'The Admirals' across the sea-ice to Lagoon refuge.

We planned to open up the refuge and get the primus going for a brew. However, our navigation skills were not up to much, as we actually made land fall on Anchorage first! After seeing the error of our ways we took a sharp right and eventually made it to Lagoon for our brew.

As it was winter, the days were short and the light started to fail on the return trip. Running back to Rothera, behind a team of dogs with the sun going down, with all that magnificent light was a great experience for Mike and I.

When we reached Rothera most of the lads were there on the shore line to meet us. We were all involved in taking the dogs back to the spans. It was dog feed night, everybody helped to feed the hounds and depot the sledge.

That was a fantastic day out with Mike and the dogs.

I remember that Mike had a penguin suit that he used to wear in the bar every now and again.

We were all in the bar one afternoon and Lee Nixon looked out of the window towards the ramp and said,

"what is Mike wondering around the bottom of the ramp in the outfit for?"

At which point Mike wondered into the bar! We had been watching an Emperor Penguin and all thought it was Mike fooling around - joke was Mike was about the same size as an Emperor.

BARBARA MCHUGO 1925-2017



By Petra Searle

Barbara was the second of four children in a Catholic family of Southend-on-Sea, which she called "home" all her life. She read geography at Newnham College, Cambridge from 1943 to 1946, and after university worked for the Joint Intelligence Bureau of the Ministry of Defence. In 1958 she joined the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS) as Map Officer with responsibility for the Air Photo Library. In 1960 when I left DOS, Barbara added supervision of mapping in British Antarctic Territory (BAT) to her responsibilities, and in 1981 was promoted to Head of Technical Services.

Barbara was never an employee of BAS, but continued the arrangement begun in the 1940s that DOS and FIDS worked together on mapping BAT. She drew up the survey programme, assessed source material, liaised with BAS and the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research, and managed the BAS surveyors at DOS.

She spoke at BAS conferences for recruits: at one of them she recalled Bunny Fuchs' sofa party trick (does anyone else remember it?).

Liz Gordon (nee Fleming) one of Barbara's assistants, remembers her from the 1970s,

"always kind, with a very sharp intellect and the ability, when appropriate, to deliver a well-chosen word".

She ensured that the returning BAS Surveyors worked within the DOS structure

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(though later, she recalled them climbing in and out of windows and riding on the tea trolley).

When DOS closed in 1984 the Antarctic survey data was transferred to BAS and I was re-employed to manage it. Barbara was then a great support to me - at the end of a telephone.

In 1977 Barbara was honoured by the Antarctic Place Names Committee with "McHugo Peak" at the north west end of the Traverse Mountains on the east side of the entrance to George VI Sound.

Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith, the editor of "The History of Place Names in BAT" wrote of her entry in the Gazetteer, "I am relieved that Barbara's 'c' (in McHugo) is 'superior', otherwise she wouldn't speak to me again!".

Among the many aspects of Barbara's work at DOS was the organisation of technical, professional and management training for temporarily seconded members of over fifty overseas colonial departments.

She helped them adjust to working and social conditions in the UK; this established an international reputation for training organised through DOS. When Barbara retired, more than a hundred of her former students wrote from all over the world with their good wishes.

During the 1982 Falklands' War, Barbara co-ordinated all external requests to DOS for data and information. Between April and June she spent long hours of dedicated and intensive work, keeping a "Diary of Assistance provided by DOS to Government Departments, the Forces and the Media".

As she recorded, "14 April, 5.00pm MOD (Map Research and Library Group) to visit and discuss large scale mapping material (published and unpublished) of South Georgia and Falkland Islands. Detailed list and evaluation prepared by DOS and supplied 21.14".

And from DOS Annual Report: "In addition to meeting a flood of demands for data and information, DOS was able to support the armed forces by undertaking emergency mapping at 1:12,500 scale, including areas west of Stanley where one of the crucial battles for the liberation of the Islands was fought.

The mapping was completed just in time to serve its purpose".

DOS worked closely with Mapping and Charting Establishment, RE, who subsequently

reported in their periodical, "The Ranger" (winter 2007): "Requests were coming in for a wide variety of geographic products .

Much of the material needed didn't exist even as library copies and a major collection effort started. Staff were asked to contact universities and commercial companies who might have useful material.

The Antarctic collection at DOS was managed by a formidable lady of the old school, who had several members of Military Survey quaking in their boots.

On one occasion a young girl, required to carry a particularly large and fragile sheet across a busy 'A' road, was told:

"Be careful! I don't care about you but don't lose the map!".

In 1984 Barbara was appointed M.B.E. for her work in surveying and mapping. That year, the merger of DOS into the Ordnance Survey took her to Southampton where she became their first lady Manager.

She initiated the reorganisation of their Technical Information and Support Service Section before retiring in 1986. As a colleague said of her then, "She's an institution!".

In retirement Barbara wrote, "Topographical Survey and Mapping of British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands 1944-1986",

which provides a detailed record of the surveyors' work and of the challenges facing the cartographers at DOS.

The book, which includes many photographs and maps, was edited and published by BAS in 2004, and is still available. Sadly, the editors did not get the 'c' of her name correctly 'superior'.

PS I am indebted to Richard Porter (Senior Map Officer, DOS, and later Manager OS International) for much of the information above particularly concerning the Falklands' War.

HAROLD MICHAEL FIELDING 1943--2017 Surveyor, Stonington 1969-1970

Eulogy given at his funeral by his son

Harold Michael Fielding, Michael, Mike, Dad, was born and brought up in and around Mytholmroyd, near Halifax in what was then the West Riding of Yorkshire.

He passed away aged 72 after spending the last 30 odd years living near Ashbourne. As

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with many, he would have liked another 10 years or so. However, he hadn't exactly wasted the time that he had.

His work as a Land Surveyor took him quite literally all over the world. He started out teaching students at the North East London Polytechnic and travelled the UK giving field courses. After, he ventured farther afield – to France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Gabon, Tunisia, South Sudan, Madagascar, Cameroon, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kurdistan, Chile and the Falkland Islands. Most of the time he seemed to spend driving around deserts in a Toyota Land Cruiser supervising seismic teams.

However, the one that always stuck in my mind was the Antarctic – a place so remote and desolate to many it might as well be the moon. He was always full of stories about his Antarctic adventures. Back then they travelled primarily by dog sled and because they were so remote and there was not always a vet available they often had to perform surgery on the dogs - including one time when they had to do an emergency C-section. You could tell he'd spent a lot of time with dogs – whenever he met our dog Juno the standard greeting would be for him to get on all fours and wrestle her to the ground. There were also many tales of weathering massive snow storms several days long until they had to dig themselves out of their tents. And of course, all the time travelling to places where no human had set foot before.

Aside from the stories, Dad's legacy of the Antarctic includes a col (a pass between two mountains) named after him on the Antarctic Peninsula, a huge collection of slides (which one of us will bloody need to digitise at some point) and many pen and ink artworks he made when Sam and Peter were growing up – driven by his love of art; a passion which he shared with his close friend Mike Skidmore – a fellow Antarctic veteran, who sadly also passed away recently after a long battle with cancer.

The travelling brought about by Dad's working life meant endless opportunities for the family to travel together, and resulted in Sam being born in Brunei (from there, visiting Sarawak, Sabah, Bali, Thailand, Burma and the Philippines) and then, some years later, Pat, Sam and Peter spending two years living with him out in Oman, which involved a great deal of camping

and exploring in the wildernesses of that beautiful and extraordinary country.

Dad also took his passion for art to Oman, where he and Sam learnt watercolour together and while Sam produced some excellent work, dad produced some outstanding paintings. Back in Derbyshire he spent many an hour crafting beautiful pen and ink drawings of local landscapes and wildlife – one of which can be found at the back of the order of service.

When he wasn't out working in the field one of dad's other passions apart from art was music. His first love was the clarinet, his favourite piece composed by Gerald Finzi. His love of music helped inspire both Sam and Peter to take up musical instruments, Sam learning 'cello and guitar and Peter playing the saxophone and later teaching himself the clarinet after Dad lent him one of his.

More recently he inherited his Dad's piano, which he'd been playing a lot of. The piece you heard earlier (Schubert's Piano Sonata No 2) was the latest he was trying to master.

One other thing Dad greatly enjoyed and excelled at was computer programming. Dad learnt computing and programming back when a computer was as big as a room and far less powerful than the cheapest of digital watches today.

Programming was something he had to do for work but his enthusiasm for the subject continued while he was home. This enthusiasm rubbed off on Sam and Peter. He taught Peter how to write a basic computer game, and turned a blind eye to him sneaking down and playing it very early in the morning.

He also taught Sam how to write programs and about the potential of programming – a skill he now uses every day for work.

Even after Dad had stopped travelling abroad as much he retained his love of being out in the wilderness, in the great outdoors – much preferring it to being stuck behind a computer screen.

He was always full of stories about going on walking and camping expeditions while he was growing up on the Pennines.

As a family, we were always going on long walks through the hills, near home in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, in Wales, the Lake District and in Scotland. There are many parts of growing up

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Sam and Peter both remember with fondness; this is definitely one of them.

After Dad came back from the remoteness and vastness of the Antarctic, walking around the UK must’ve seemed relatively tame, but he was always excited about the next adventure and Sam shared many a fun weekend with him, hiking and scrambling up mountains followed by a few beers. One of the last times we were out we climbed Great Gable in the Lake District – an 8-hour epic that ended with Sam’s feet in tatters and a dog so tired she collapsed in the car park at the end and took several days to recover.

During his recent illness, the one thing which frustrated him more than anything else was not being able to go out on a long and energetic walk over the hills. He missed this terribly.

So he can continue his adventures, we will be scattering his ashes near where he grew up in Yorkshire and on the peaks of mountains he loved and of mountains he wanted to climb throughout the UK. I don’t know anyone going to the Antarctic soon so that’ll have to do for now.

Dad was exceptionally well travelled, musical, artistic and technically gifted. He was also an extremely happy and positive person; he was very loving and greatly loved.

IAN McMORRIN -----2017
Stonington, GA 1962-1964

In Memoriam

By Gaynor McMorrin, Peter Kennett and Ivor Morgan*

For many of us who first met Ian on the John Biscoe in October, 1961, Ian’s gaunt sun-creased face made him different, and older than his years.

Born in South Africa, he grew up in Salisbury, Rhodesia,** the only child in a family of Scottish descent. He spent much time on his uncle’s farm exploring and playing with the children of the African workers.

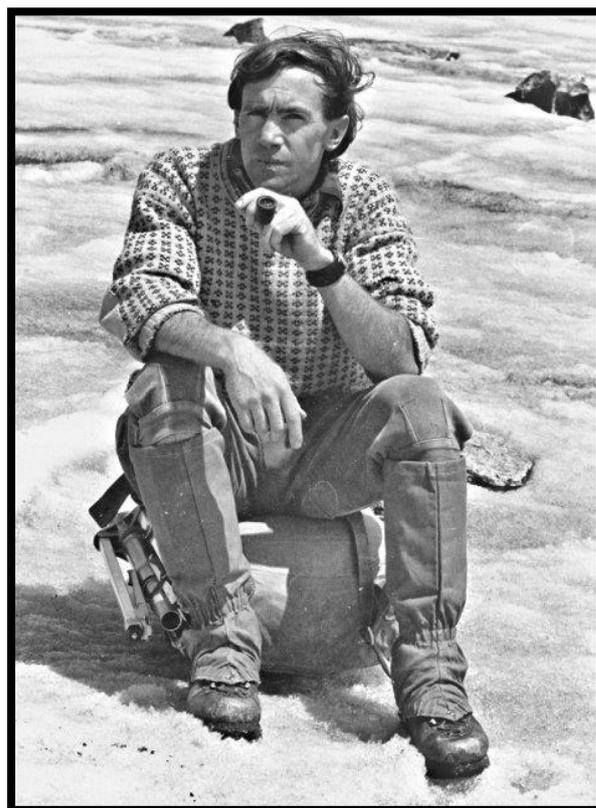
Later, he developed a love for climbing and adventure through the Rhodesian Schools Exploration Society and expeditions to the Chimanimanis mountains.

He left school early having had his education complicated by bilharzia and joined

the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation where he received training in cartography.

Any spare time was spent climbing and playing the clarinet. Called to serve part time in the Rhodesian Army, the experience made him determined to lead a very different life.

So, he went to London where, using some Salisbury Climbing Club contacts, he met John Cleare, the Alpine Club’s mountain photographer. Soon they were climbing together – and Ian signed up for FIDS. He joined as a mountaineer and gash hand.



(Ian photo by John Cleare)

The journey to Antarctica impressed many of us, even those of us born in the islands. For Ian, this was even more so. After a brief respite in the Falklands and a Muskeg trip from Stanley to Teal Inlet, Ian described the trip across the Drake Passage as “pure hell, though only three days of it.” And so on to Stonington, Ian’s winter base for two years.

Before winter, Ian and John Cunningham, our two expert Stonington mountaineers, put all field workers through crevasse rescue training that included rappelling from ice cliffs. Skiing on the Northeast Glacier ramp was a new activity for Ian.

Sledges were prepared, and dogs and their handlers were trained. Ian and his team, the

Obituaries “In Memoriam” Tributes

Spartans, Ben Hodges and the Moomins and Ivor Morgan took a training expedition up Sodabread Slope, a route that was to prove familiar to Ian and Ben during their second Stonington year.

The winter period was mostly spent in preparation for the long summer journeys, particularly for the Muskeg tractor group that planned to drive south over the Marguerite Bay sea ice to King George VI Sound.

The short days limited travel but a survey trip was made after midwinter to Butson Ridge and the area to its north. Ian and the Spartans provided support for this survey which linked the area to adjacent areas already mapped—and included climbing Butson.

Recreational climbing was not part of FIDS/BAS goals, but we did occasionally climb for pleasure. On one such climb near the peak of Neny Island to see the sun, Ian and Ivor learned that avalanches do occur in Antarctica because the slope avalanched inches below them. The whole gully surface disappeared over the edge of a cliff.

Ian and Ivor also climbed Roman IV, a steep snow climb. On descending, Ivor caught his crampons in his baggy FIDS pants and became airborne. He still remembers Ian shouting, “Use your axe!” as he obeyed.

As Ian and Ivor were returning to base from an unsuccessful sealing trip in the pram dinghy, a blue whale rose from the water to form an unusual mountain alongside the dinghy. Its curiosity satisfied, the whale departed, sparing the FIDS from a -1.8°C swim.

Things became busy in September with the arrival of the aircraft in the Bay. The Muskegs hauled cargos up the Northeast glacier in readiness for the aircraft. The Muskeg/caboose train left for King George VI Sound on September 21. Low cloud was a problem for some weeks, with clear skies in one place but not others.

Navigation aids were primitive by today’s standards and getting lost in the air was a real possibility. It was about a month before all of the field crews had arrived at Fossil Bluff by air, the same time as the Muskeg train.

For the summer, Ian provided support for Tal Taylor’s continuing geological survey in the mountains of Alexander Island. The remainder of the group was set to make a topographical survey of both sides of the Sound using Tellurometers and theodolites travelling

primarily by dog teams or air. Ian and Tal even took a flight around the south side of Alexander Island to observe the geology.

For Ian’s second year 1963/64, BAS office placed the two remaining surveyors on Adelaide Island for the winter leaving Ian as the sole person with survey training at Stonington.



(Ian plotting survey results before his tobacco ran out Nov 1963 – photo Peter Kennett)

The main focus for the season was to make topographical, geophysical and geological surveys of large portions of the Larsen Ice Shelf.

In addition to his survey work, Ian played a major support role by providing transport with the Spartans, and mountaineer support for the other scientists. However, before the summer’s work on the East Coast could start, food and fuel depots needed to be placed along the route.

The original plan was for the Larsen Ice Shelf Party of six to be flown in from the West Coast with food and fuel support from depots laid by our Otter aircraft. Some depots were laid in readiness at Whirlwind Inlet and Churchill Peninsula, but these were insufficient. Then the Otters became unserviceable, so the team had to sledge across the plateau unsupported.

To prepare for summer, a large depot was to be hauled across the peninsula in the autumn to be left at Three Slice Nunatak, involving most base members. Ian and the Spartans formed a recce party with Ron Tindal and the Giants, and Ralph Horne as third man.

The plateau ascent was very steep but straightforward, but the descent to the Larsen Ice Shelf involved travel through a badly crevassed

Obituaries “In Memoriam” Tributes

area of Bills Gulch. Ian, Ron and Ralph led the heavy depot party that carried 1.5 tonnes of food and fuel, by flagging a route through the crevasses onto the ice shelf. On the way, with temperatures at -28°F, several dogs fell into crevasses but were recovered.

They then returned part way to lead the depot party of the Moomins and two Eliasons through the hazardous area. Ian led this party on skis and gave much confidence to the less experienced sledgers.

On the return journey, two Eliason sledges jack-knifed into a deep crevasse with Tony Marsh disappearing between the two, fortunately hanging on his rope. All assisted in the recovery and no harm was done.

During the winter, Ian continued to train base members in crevasse rescue techniques. This training became useful when Dave Beynon fell into a crevasse after going for a potter on the glacier after lunch. He had not returned by tea time, so a search party went out in the dark on skis, finding his ice axe next to a gaping hole. Ian volunteered to be lowered down on a rope to find him. Dave was concussed but still alive, and Ian duly bundled him up in another rope, and the rest of the party hauled Dave up to the surface. He made a full recovery.

In July, Ian and Pete Kennett set off with the Spartans for Horseshoe Island (Base Y) to carry out some geophysical survey work, later to be joined by two further teams.

The weather was poor and the days short, so much time was spent lying up and reading. The trip was very successful and useful results were obtained in and around Bourgeois Fjord before returning to base.

The most eventful part of this return trip was having to cross about 200 yards of new sea ice, off Camp Point. Ian went ahead gingerly, testing the ice as he went, and when he had decided it was safe, Pete drove the Spartans across – of course, they could see where their real driver was standing and made a beeline for him.

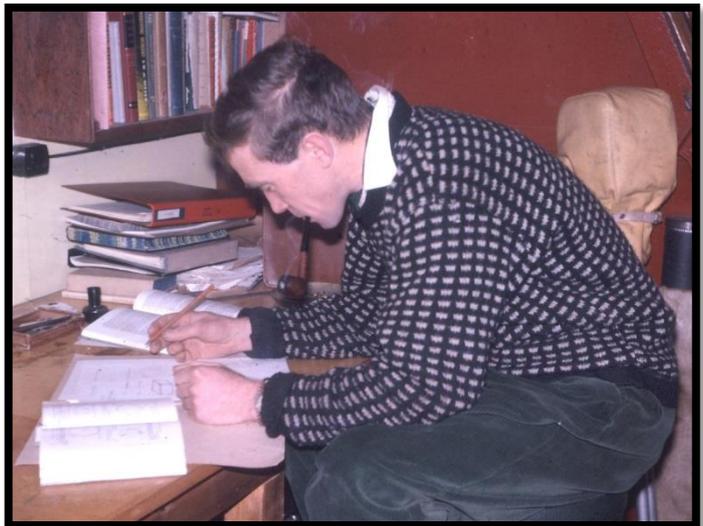
Work continued during the summer of 1963/4 on the Larsen Ice Shelf but travel was by the longer and safer Snowshoe Glacier route.

The six men formed two groups: Ian and the Spartans paired with Pete and his Eliason and either Tony Marsh or Mike Fleet depending on the location under study. Ian’s experience and guidance were invaluable.

He surveyed wherever the party went using sledge wheel and compass, enhanced with panoramic sketches and photographs. He used these later at DOS in Surrey to enhance the existing basic maps, in particular, the upper reaches of the Starbuck and Stubb Glaciers had never been entered before.

Aircraft problems due to serviceability or weather at the end of the season meant that the Larsen Group had to return overland using the infamous Bill’s Gulch. Ian led the way through the worst parts, but his leader, Epsilon, would not obey his commands. Ian discovered that his commands would have led them into large crevasse, and the dog was just looking for a safe bridge across. So Ian let Epsilon have his head. He seemed instinctively to know where he was heading, and led through the Gulch with few further commands.

The Drake Passage was even more memorable on the return trip to Britain. Ian described the experience as “terrible.” He was happy to finish his cartographic work at DOS. Like many other Fids, Ian did not know exactly what to do next. His passion for language and the power of the natural environment as a medium for teaching led him to take a degree in English at Exeter University and become an English teacher.



(Ian studying. Photo, Peter Kennett)

Ian continued climbing and met up with Wilfred Noyce, who was subsequently killed climbing in the Caucasus. Wilfrid had started writing a book and Ian was asked to continue the work. The book “The Atlas of Mountaineering” was published in 1969 while Ian was teaching at

Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

Lindisfarne College, near Wrexham, where he met his future wife, Gaynor.

Gaynor is an artist and gave Ian much assistance in this work. Ian and Gaynor were married in 1970. Prior to their marriage, Ian moved to a teaching post in Devon before returning to Rhodesia for 9 months working for the Rhodesian Broadcasting News Division, a time of great political turmoil in the country. The Smith system was quite unacceptable to Ian and he returned to Britain.

After marriage, Ian took an advanced teaching diploma at Oxford University and soon his first daughter, Anna, was born.

Robin Hodgkin, his Oxford tutor, his friend and fellow climber, made a strong recommendation for Ian to apply for the Head of Centre for Outdoor Education at Woodlands (Glasbury-on-Wye) in Powys. When asked by the interviewing panel how long he would stay, he answered, "I can guarantee a year." He got the job.

His second daughter, Flora was born in 1974 in the Woodlands cottage. After 28 years at Woodlands, teaching skills of living together through outdoor activities, he retired. Many have written to say that their experiences at Woodlands have formed a significant part of their lives.

Ian and Gaynor bought their cottage in St. Nicholas (Tremarchog), Pembs in 1976 but only moved there fully in 1992 after Ian's retirement. Ian continued working after retiring, always involved in outdoor education.

He was Chair of the Mountain Leader Training Board, Chair of the Association of Heads of Outdoor Recreation Centres, an independent member of the Health and Safety Executive's Adventure Activities Licensing Authority Management Board, Chair of the British Mountaineering Council's Access and Conservation Committee and a member of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Advisory Panel. He represented the BMC in a number of roles including that of ambassador to the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme.

Ian had a deep interest in countryside access, and was involved in the implementation of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act liaising with government ministers, and DETR and DEFRA officials.

Ian set up a charity "The Oxford Outdoor Learning Trust" to ensure that young people from Oxford could continue to get experiences in outdoor education.

His work on the Rights of Way Act was recognized in Professor Kevin Gray's definitive book on Land Law published in 2001. The McMorrin Glacier was named after him.

Ian loved his adopted country of Wales and his life by the sea. Yet mention of Africa brought a special look to his eyes, perhaps fuelled by "hiraeth" (Welsh) for its Big Open Skies. Connected always to the outdoors, making time with the tides, the weather and nature's many life forms, Ian was always calm in a crisis, and above all a man of peace and humour.

He was loved by his grandchildren, Miriam, Eva, Bella and Josh, their parents, Anna, Steven, Flora and Ed, and by Gaynor and Ian's many friends.

** All errors and omissions are Ivor's*

*** Rhodesia existed as Northern Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia until Northern Rhodesia became Zambia in 1964 on becoming independent from Britain. Southern Rhodesia became Rhodesia and this became the Republic of Zimbabwe in 1980. Salisbury became Harare in 1982.*

ALAN CARROLL 1933-2017

Port Lockroy 1954-1957

By Rachel Morgan

Alan Carroll – Port Lockroy 1954-57. Died September 2017 age of 84.

Before joining FIDS Alan had flown Gloster Meteors during National Service.

On joining FIDS he was assigned to Port Lockroy as base leader and in charge of the 'beastie'.

He spent his whole Antarctic tour there wintering 1955 and 56.

He welcomed the Duke of Edinburgh in January 1957 and initiated the first bird-ringing programme.

After FIDS he flew for FIGAS for a while before spending 15 years in Bahrain in the oil industry. It was there that he met his wife, Jane. They had two sons, Jeremy and Timothy.

Alan then worked in engineering and communications in Banbury and latterly in the Oxford University Language Lab. It was here 40

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years later that his passion was rekindled with a chance meeting.

While working in Oxford Rachel Duncan was taking a Spanish class. During the lessons she had written a piece about how it was her dream to work in Antarctica. The teacher told Alan and they met.

Two years later when she secured a wintering field assistant job at Rothera, Alan gave her his windy to take South (it is now at Port Lockroy). It was at this time that Port Lockroy, recently designated a historic site, was restored by a team of four Fids (Simon ‘Arkrigh’, Rick Atkinson, Dave Burkitt, and Ben Hodges).

Another 10 years on, and care of Base ‘A’ was handed over to the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. Alan spent considerable time acquiring and restoring items for display there and installed the low-voltage system for visitors. He restored skis, numerous radios, whistler listeners, and most recently inserted some of the oral history recordings into a vintage wireless set.

Alan wrote numerous articles about Antarctic history and technology, and transcribed many oral history tapes.

Perhaps his most notable achievement was the acquisition and restoration of the famous ‘beastie’, which now forms the centrepiece for the science room. The original ‘beastie’ – Union Radio Mark II Automatic Ionosonde - from Port Lockroy had been taken to Faraday when the base was closed in 1962.



Alan, keen to see one re-instated went to great effort to source another one. In 1981 BAS had donated one to the Science Museum in

London. It was there gathering dust in a basement but the museum would not part with it.

There were rumours that another was lying in a field in Leicestershire but fourteen months of detective work proved fruitless.

However in 2000 ‘Bill’ Bailey discovered it during a visit to the Rutherford Appleton Lab near Abingdon. It may well have been in a field as there was an old dormouse nest inside the transmitter turret.

It was actually a Mark IIa but Alan decided this was a compromise he would have to accept. But in sourcing parts for it, the University of Wales in Aberystwyth turned out to have a complete unit of the very model needed. It was in a leaking field hut gathering rust. The University was only too glad to find a home for it.

At the beginning of 2001 Alan dismantled it into its 26 components and carried them across the field and then back to his home where he spent the next five months painstakingly and meticulously restoring it. He replaced the aluminium side panels with Perspex so visitors could see the inner complexities.

Happily the work on the Leicester Mark IIa was not wasted as it is now housed in the Radio Research Station museum in Ditton Park near Slough.

BAS transported the Mark II South together with detailed and rigorous instructions as to how base leader Dave Burkitt should assemble and reinstate it. The main casing on wheels was separate from the dozen or so attaché case size units which slid into the main frame working top downwards, two units to each layer.

Then the cables dropped down into the next layer and connected to the various valves etc. It was all very well put together as only one cable would fit into any one socket (because of the pin configuration).

The whole project had involved driving 2048 miles, 27 letters, 43 phone calls, 167 emails. After seven months of working six day weeks, Alan was very proud to be able to have seen it in-situ when he visited in 2006.

More recently Alan completed a definitive study of the history of the Port Lockroy region and co-wrote the book published in 2014 Operation Tabarin: Britain's Secret Wartime Expedition to Antarctica 1944-46.

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He received the Polar Medal in 2008. Alan was without doubt the world authority on Port Lockroy and his meticulous and rigorous commitment there will be sorely missed.

WILLIAM J.L. SLADEN, MBE (1920-2017)

MO Hope Bay 1948

By Keith Holmes

I see from Wikipedia that Bill Sladen died on May 29th this year, in America, at the age of 96.

Bill wintered at Hope Bay in 1948 as the Medical Officer and on November 8th he returned from a short solo field excursion to the nearby penguin rookery to discover that Eagle House, the Operation Tabarin base hut, was on fire. It burnt to the ground in front of his eyes, and he had no chance at all to save the lives of his colleagues Oliver Burd, and Michael Green, who were trapped inside.

Bill's other colleagues were further a-field and he spend sixteen days alone, and without a radio, dealing with the situation. Vivian Fuchs recounted the tragedy in "Ice and Men".

After the fire, Sladen seems to have taken care of the dogs, which were transferred during the 1948-49 relief period to Base H on Signy Island, where Sladen himself also wintered as one of only five men in 1950. As Base Leader, Medical Officer, and Zoologist he once more looked after his canine friends from Hope Bay, but I believe that he devoted himself mainly to the bird-life (particularly penguins) on the island. He was a most dedicated ornithologist throughout the rest of his life.

Bill soon moved to the United States, becoming a near-neighbour and acquaintance of Jenny Darlington in Virginia. I remember reading about him trying to teach juvenile Canada geese and trumpeter swans (which had bonded with him at their birth), to migrate to a new area, showing them the way in a microlight aircraft.

I hope other Club Members, better qualified than me, can add to the story of this remarkable man.

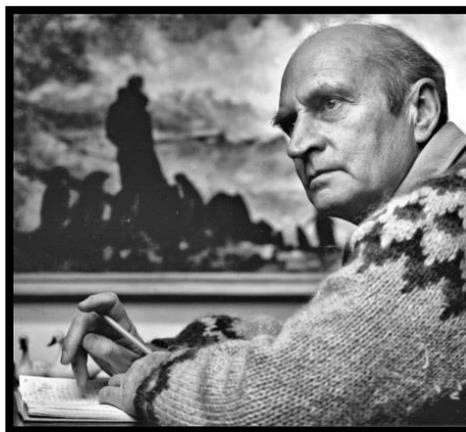
Editors's note:-

A full obituary for Bill Sladen appeared in the Prince William Times, Pennsylvania USA http://www.fauquier.com/prince_william_times/news/noted-scientist-conservationist-dr-william-

[sladen-dies-at/article_b47e4974-45b3-11e7-91ba-d75f3c01caf5.html](http://www.fauquier.com/prince_william_times/news/noted-scientist-conservationist-dr-william-slادن-dies-at/article_b47e4974-45b3-11e7-91ba-d75f3c01caf5.html)

An excerpt from the Prince William Times describes some of his time in Antarctica.

'Born in England and trained in medicine, Bill Sladen first travelled to Antarctica in 1948 as medical officer and biologist for a small team of researchers at Hope Bay, a remote blizzard-swept base on the Antarctic peninsula operated by Britain's Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.'



Dr. William (Bill) J. L. Sladen, a scientist and conservationist known worldwide for long-term behavioral studies of Arctic and Antarctic birds, particularly Adelie penguins and North American native swans.

PETE HOLLOWAY

Ken Lax wrote to let us know of the death of Pete Holloway, ex Bransfield crew and club member. Ken wrote: 'I regret to tell you that Pete passed away yesterday (24th September). His passing was peaceful and he was with friends.'

JIM STEEN

October 2017 Dave Matthews wrote recently to let us know of the death of Jim Steen. Jim died recently in Canada. He wintered at '64 and '65 at Stonington as a GA.

Editor:- members are requested to send any memories etc of any colleague/friend mentioned above

Book Reviews

The intention of the book reviews is to review any books written by Fids and any books that may be of interest to Club members. All books must relate to the Antarctic. Members are requested to contact the magazine editor prior to carrying out any book review for confirmation as to whether the book has been reviewed in any earlier editions. Any BAS Club member who has written a book can advertise the sale of the book for free

WHALE FACTORY SHIPS AND MODERN WHALING 1881 – 2016

Ian Hart

Ships in Focus Publications

230 pages. Well illustrated with many photographs and diagrams.

Portrait 305mm by 215mm.

Available from J & M Clarkson, 18 Franklands, Longton, Preston, PR4 5PD, £29.50 or by email shipsinfocus@btinternet.com

Reviewed by Chris Brading

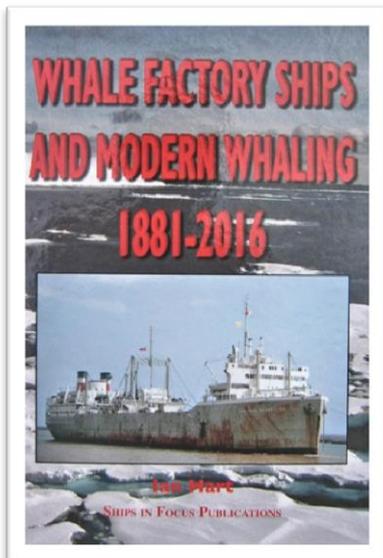
This is a deeply researched scholarly book covering all aspects of the whaling industry from the early beginnings in the Arctic to the sophisticated modern factory ships and catchers that brought some species of whales to near extinction. There cannot be many Fids who have not seen the numerous stark reminders of the whaling industry from the many scattered bones along the Peninsula, to the remains of the shore station on Deception Island and, until 1962, the active whaling stations on South Georgia.

The first section covers the early history from open boats and hand held harpoons in the Arctic. Modern whaling began in 1881 with the first purpose built steam catchers and converted ships to act as factories and effective harpoon guns. At first there were failures and limited success. One of the first factory ships in 1892 was the barque "Morgenen" later better known as Scott's relief vessel the "Morning". One of the major problems with converted ships was getting the whale carcasses on board and it was not until 1922 that stern opening slipways were successfully introduced.

The next chapters are full of details of companies, expeditions and technical developments. From the turn of the century the Arctic was fished out and whale bans were introduced. The fleets soon turned south to the Antarctic. Larsen was already there on South Georgia but 1904 saw the first factory ship off the Peninsula. The Falkland Islands Government brought in regulations and issued concessions in an attempt at conservation and insisted that the whole whale carcass was used.

In the twenties whole areas of the world were investigated and fished out leaving the Antarctic by far the most attractive area. The first factory ships needed to be at a safe anchorage where water could be obtained but by the end of the twenties wholly pelagic factory ships had been produced that could stay at sea and the fishing grounds moved to the ice edge. In 1928 the first custom built factory ships were introduced and they were highly successful. In the 1930-31 season, 40,201 whales were caught of which 29,410 were Blue Whales. Massive overproduction caused both the market and the industry to collapse. It also brought in some regulation of the industry.

WW2 brought further devastation with British and Norwegian ships requisitioned for convoy duties and most were sunk. Some whaling took place but some of the ships were captured by the German raider "Penguin", which incidentally led to Operation Tabarin. After the war there was a scramble to obtain suitable ships and some new ones were built including the Southern Harvester which graces the cover of this book. She was visited by Prince Philip when he did a tour of the FIDS bases in 1957 and was well known to many Fids. The post war years led to a boom and in spite of tighter regulations the overfishing caused the crash in the mid nineteen-sixties from which the industry has never recovered. Russia and Japan continued operations and subsequent surfacing of records indicate that the former falsified records and continued to catch high numbers of endangered species. There were also pirate whale catchers, one of which, the Sae Nicolau, was in fact the ex Danish Magga Dan, the supply ship to Fuchs and the TAE. Today there is only one Japanese factory ship in operation in the guise of research in the North Pacific but nevertheless marketing the produce.



Book Reviews

The second section describes, with full technical detail and history, all the factory ships known to have participated in whaling together with supply ships and catchers each with its photograph and history.

This book is not an easy read as it is packed with details of companies, catches, profits and technical details of ship construction and conversions, of harpoon guns, special winches, cookers, and inevitably politics, but is full of interest and liberally supplied with photographs and diagrams. Some of the early photographs of whaling on the Peninsula will be of particular interest to Fids.

'A HISTORY OF WHALING IN BRAZIL: FROM ROYAL FISH TO JAPANESE DELICACY'

by Ian Hart and William Edmundson

Reviewed by Dr Jane M Clayton

This book makes a valuable contribution to the history of whaling by, as the author claims, 'bridging a void'. It provides an excellent starting point for anyone interested in the development of the South Sea Whale Fishery from Brazil. Whether researchers or enthusiasts, they will now be able to examine in more detail the contribution made by the country to what was a global oceanic industry. It also provides further insight into the links between whaling and the Antarctic region, especially the Antarctic islands of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The story of the southern fishery from a South American perspective has been sadly lacking, particularly in English, and the book has provided the basis of the remedy for that situation.

Conservation and environmental awareness are working in tandem for the Antarctic continent and the various species of whale but their economic constraints are often hotly debated by the various stakeholders involved. The book does not comment on these geo-political perspectives but provides a factual and detailed description of developments in the whale fishery over four centuries to give the reader an unbiased revue of the role of Brazil in these developments.

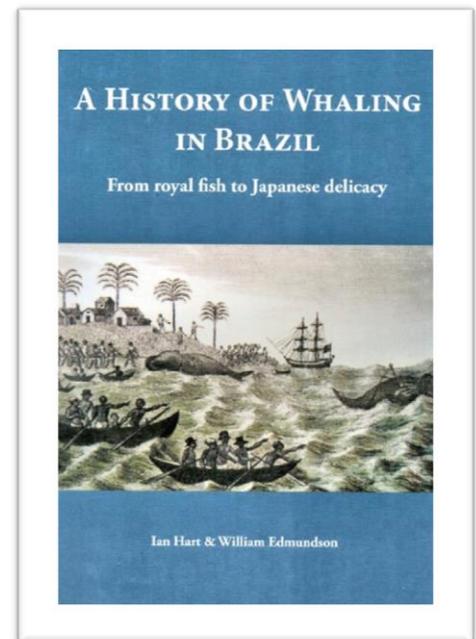
The main focus of the book is the twentieth century, but the first chapter summarises the earlier expansion of inshore whaling activities south from Bahia to Santa Catarina. In the 1700s, whalers from New England and then Britain began off-shore whaling there with the capacity to render down the blubber on board their ships. They practically 'fished out' the Brazil Banks as these whaling grounds were known.

The second chapter sets out the Norwegian connection detailing the beginnings of modern whaling in and around the Antarctic continent and South Georgia in particular. The industry began on South Georgia in 1904 at Grytviken under an Argentinian company managed by C. A. Larsen which became 'a haven for the modern whaling industry' (p.77). Salvesen's started whaling from New Island in the Falkland Islands in 1909, and in 1911 the industry was set up on the South Sandwich Islands.

Chapters Three and Four detail the contribution of Julius von Söhsten and his northern whaling enterprise based in Paraiba, which is described as "the most important and longest lasting whaling company established in the 20th Century". They set out, from what limited evidence there is, the period when Mendes Lima took over Söhsten's company, a time during which the Geneva Convention for the Regulation of Whaling was passed by the United Nations. Around 1948, the management of the firm passed to Samuel Galveo until it was sold in 1957 to the Japanese.

Chapter Five considers the way an adaptation of the bomb lance was reintroduced in an isolated region in the south of Brazil targeting the Southern Right Whale. The practice was officially prohibited in 1965 but continued illegally from time to time until 1973.

The next three chapters deal with the introduction of Japan to the Brazilian whaling industry, and its contribution to significant developments. The 1950s saw the beginning of a Japanese stake in modern whaling



Book Reviews

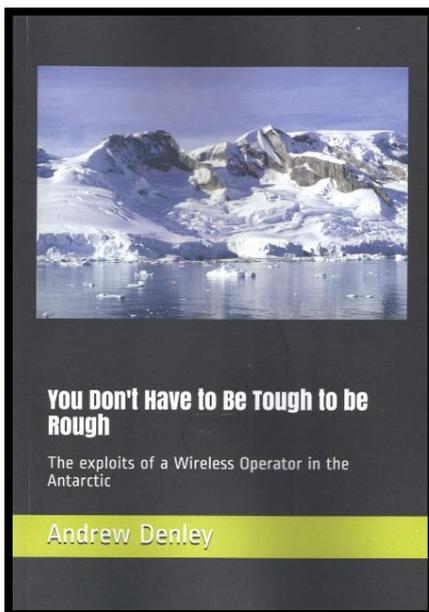
in Brazil and was encouraged for the sale of whale meat and oil within the country itself. The products were used for meal as animal food and tanning leather as well as exports to Japan and elsewhere in the world.

Chapter Nine considers the impact of the ban on whaling and the contribution of financial help and expertise from the United Kingdom. In 1979, a whaling ban was proposed but rescinded and it was not until 1987 that commercial whaling came to an end in Brazil. From the early 1980s, whale conservation had become part of the agenda in Brazil and from the year 2000 until 2005, one of the Company complexes became a theme park. Eventually, in 2008, a protection area was set up along the coast of the State of Sao Paulo.

The final chapter describes the setting up of two whale conservation projects, which have resulted in the recovery of the numbers of southern right whales and humpbacks, along with other species, off the coast of Brazil; as the authors suggest they clearly demonstrate the country's willingness to change from "villain to hero" (p.166).

A 'Time-line' at the beginning of the book outlining significant developmental milestones is extremely useful and detailed zoological descriptions of the various species of whale, their exploitation and protection status are strategically placed throughout the text. The appendices, endnotes and comprehensive bibliography are a bonus for any reader. The book must surely become a standard citation in future work on the whale fishery in the southern oceans. There is a wealth of photographs to illustrate the text and perhaps all that is lacking is a map that encompasses all the countries involved in whaling from Brazil.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE TOUGH TO BE ROUGH



Andrew Denley

ISBN 9781549562129

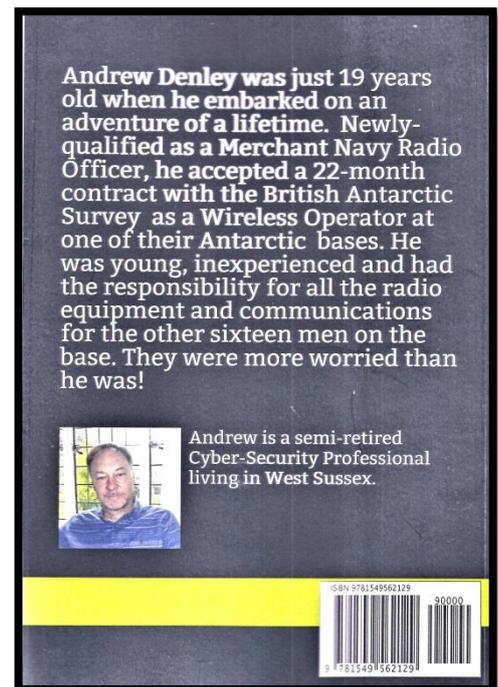
Amazon - In printed edition £9.99--- Kindle £2.99

Personal experiences of life at Rothera and Faraday when working as Wireless Operator between 1979 and 1981.

Though not written in the form of a diary the book does give an ongoing account of Andrew's travel and time on British Antarctic Survey bases Rothera and Faraday. The

book starts from his initial intention of joining British Antarctic Survey through training and travel down 'south'.

Chapters are written as 'individual' stories and anecdotes around day-to-day life on the bases with a photographic section depicting various activities and personnel involved with Andrew.



Andrew Denley was just 19 years old when he embarked on an adventure of a lifetime. Newly-qualified as a Merchant Navy Radio Officer, he accepted a 22-month contract with the British Antarctic Survey as a Wireless Operator at one of their Antarctic bases. He was young, inexperienced and had the responsibility for all the radio equipment and communications for the other sixteen men on the base. They were more worried than he was!



Andrew is a semi-retired Cyber-Security Professional living in West Sussex.

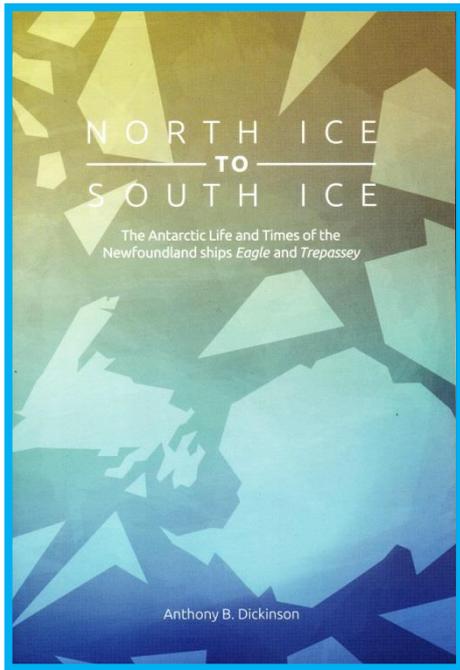
No profit will be gained from his story as he has stated that:

All profits are being donated to Cancer Research in memory of my late wife, Alison.

Book Reviews

NORTH ICE to SOUTH ICE .

The Antarctic Life and Times of the Newfoundland Ships EAGLE and TREPASSEY



Andrew B . Dickinson

2016 soft cover 261pp

DRC Publishing St' John's, St. John's

(<http://drcpublishingnl.com>)

Or through the author (adickins@mun.ca) if a personalized copy is required. The cost is \$C20 plus shipping, air or surface as required.

The book, details the three voyages made by these ships and their crews which made it possible for Great Britain to establish its permanent presence in Antarctica.

Operation Tabarin was installed at Hope Bay and the first of the FIDS bases set up and supplied.

In so doing, the then Dominion of Newfoundland enhanced a polar maritime heritage gained by providing 'wooden walls' from its northwest Atlantic sealing fleet to support previous Arctic and Antarctic expeditions.

The sourcing in Labrador of the precursor BAS huskies and their transport south is also described.

Written by Anthony B. Dickinson, Honorary Research Professor, Memorial University of Newfoundland, also a sealing inspector at South Georgia (1963-64),

ANDREW TAYLOR AND OPERATION TABARIN

Keith Holmes

Operation Tabarin was the secret, war-time, arrangement under which Base A was established at Port Lockroy in 1944, and Base D was set up at Hope Bay in 1945. Andrew Taylor was a Canadian Engineer, seconded to Operation Tabarin, from the Army, as a Surveyor under James Marr at Base A in 1944. He was appointed as the Operation Commander when Marr resigned through ill-health, and was the Base Leader at Hope Bay in 1945.

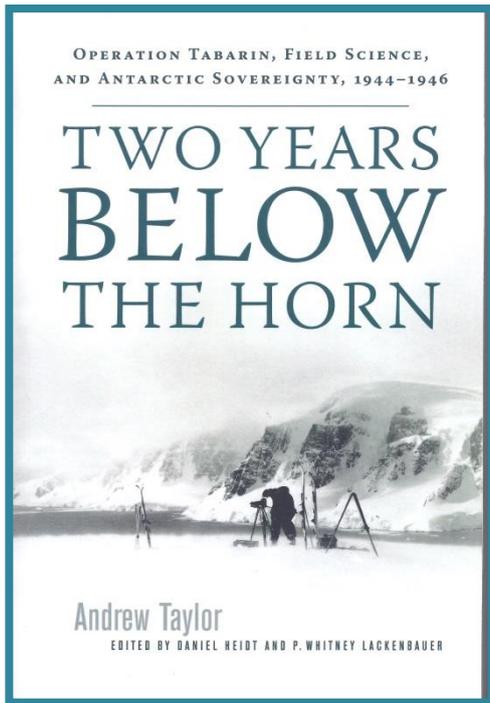
Taylor died in 1993, having failed in several attempts to publish an account of his two years south, under the title "Two Years Below The Horn". BAS Archives hold a good deal of material written by, and about, Taylor, including one version of the manuscript, but Taylor bequeathed his full Antarctic archives to his alma mater, Manitoba University, where they rested quietly for two decades, filed chronologically as "the Taylor fonds".

Early in 2014, Stephen Haddelsey and Alan Carroll published the first significant historical assessment of Operation Tabarin in their book "Operation Tabarin", which I reviewed in *BAS Club Magazine*, No. 71, of May, 2014. Stephen had drawn heavily on one of Taylor's manuscripts in Manitoba University, and over the next two years, he toiled over it enough to have it ready for publication by January, 2016. At this point the process ground to a halt. Publication is happily now imminent as "Two Years Below The Horn, A Personal Memoir of Operation Tabarin", and I have the book in pdf form.

Meanwhile, Manitoba University had supported Daniel Heidt and P. Whitney Lackenbauer in what they described as the "daunting task" of bringing "Taylor's life to the attention of all Canadians." Their edited version of "Two years Below The Horn", sub-titled "Operation Tabarin, Field Science, and Antarctic Sovereignty, 1944-1946" was published early in 2017.

It is thus opportune to review and compare these two books, and to relate them not only to Haddelsey and Carroll's historical review of Operation Tabarin, but also to the book "That Frozen Land" which David James (a contemporary of Taylor at Hope Bay), had efficiently written by August, 1947, and which was published in 1949.

Book Reviews



TWO YEARS BELOW THE HORN

Operation Tabarin, Field Science, and Antarctic Sovereignty, 1944-1946

Andrew Taylor, 2017

Edited by Daniel Heidt and P. Whitney Lackenbauer

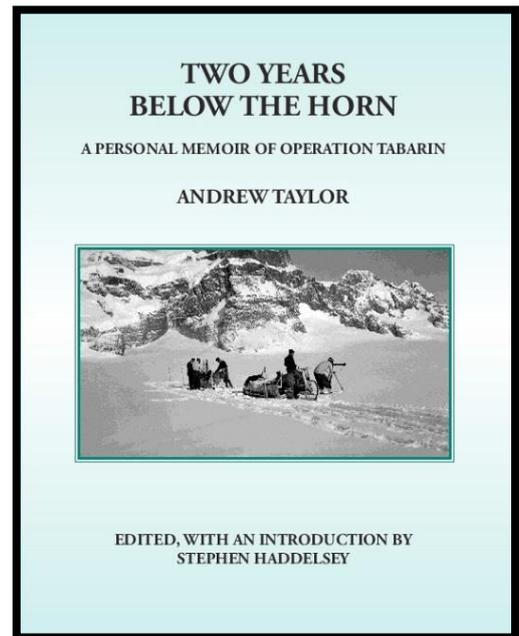
456 pages, with an Introduction of 40 pages

\$34.95 Canadian Dollars

University of Manitoba Press

ISBN 978-0-88755-791-0

www.uofmpress.ca



TWO YEARS BELOW THE HORN

A personal memoir of Operation Tabarin

Andrew Taylor, 2017.

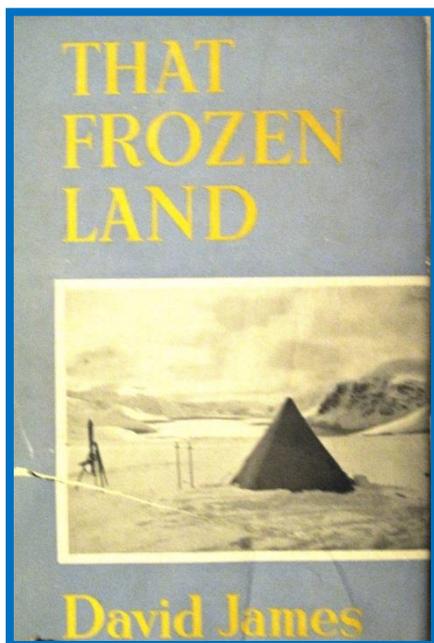
Edited, by Stephen Haddelsey

352 pages, plus 4 colour and 12 black-and-white pages, = 368 total pages

Price £37.50

The Erskine Press

ISBN 978-1-85297-117-5



FROZEN LAND

The story of a year in the Antarctic

David James, 1949

204 pages

12s 6d, but out of print

Falcon Press

In my mind, David James set the scene for the story of Operation Tabarin in just over 200 small pages with thirty black-and-white photos on glossy paper, and two splendidly clear and simple maps. He told us most of what we wanted to know about how he spent his year at Hope Bay, and even included plans of the building, and lists of sledging loads.

James had a very broad hinterland, (Scottish squirearchy, Eton School, tall-ship sailing before-the-mast, escaped prisoner-of-war) and seems to have regarded the year as yet another wonderful adventure.

Book Reviews

His key responsibility was the dogs, which Ted Bingham and Freddy Marshall had bought in Labrador in October and November, 1944, and I suspect that he and Vic Russell were the two key people who developed, from anew, the unwritten Hope Bay field craft manual.

The two new books approach Taylor's story from different perspectives.

Heidt and Lackenbauer wrote from a Canadian point of view, and with the intention of dutifully making public as much as they could of the material in the Taylor Archives. Their editorial thus adds a full account of Taylor's life and an Introductory chapter based on writings other than his manuscript. Their "Afterword" puts Taylor's experience in a broader context and records the increasing dissatisfaction with his treatment, which he harboured and recorded as he grew older.

This does him no favours. He was perhaps his own worst enemy, for example, in writing (in 1988), that "My place as the first Canadian to have commanded an Antarctic Expedition should be acknowledged - now!".

The editors themselves have no apparent polar expertise, but they have trawled through a lot of rather dry academic analysis about Britain's Antarctic involvement, and from this they place Taylor at a turning point between the "heroic" age of polar exploration and the more measured post-war approach to science.

From the Introduction to the Canadian book, it seems that Andrew Taylor, the accidental Base Leader at Hope Bay, had a very conscientious, dutiful, and perhaps unimaginative approach to Antarctic life. Despite their judgement that his cold-weather surveying experience in Canada made him well-qualified (rather than merely suitable) for the polar assignment, he seems not even to have been able to ski, so he was unable to contribute much in the way of leadership or informed judgement on polar travel. He did, nevertheless, seem to do a good and competent job.

Heidt and Lackenbauer comment that Taylor wrote somewhat inelegantly, and in a manner that his colleagues regarded as almost obsessive. They refer to David James's observation that Taylor spent much of his second winter "typing the official diary, and by way of recreation spends the evening typing his own journal. His style is very readable, and this magnum opus is beginning to assume the dimensions of "Gone with the Wind".

I, too, found Taylor's (edited) overall writing style, in both books, to be very engaging, with rare hints of amusement and humour, and an underlying dutiful attention to minutia. Taylor did, indeed, use many words to tell a very good story, and it is unfortunate that it has taken so long to become widely available. Many of the men who worked at Hope Bay in later years would, without doubt, have found his observations very helpful.

Stephen Haddelsey approaches Taylor's narrative from an historical perspective, and draws on his broad and deep understanding of Operation Tabarin to provide a more rounded overall assessment, and to add lots of helpful footnotes which reflect later knowledge. Having already aired (in his book on Operation Tabarin) Taylor's private report on the personnel who worked for him, Haddelsey skips fairly lightly over the personality issues on the bases and also over the heartfelt grievances that Taylor nurtured. By contrast, the Canadians seem aggrieved by them and apparently felt they should air and explore them in order to do Taylor justice.

Including photographs, the edited text of Taylor's two-year story runs to 377 pages in the Canadian book and 309 in Haddelsey's.

Taylor's account of the logistic operation in getting to the Antarctic Peninsula, and of the way in which the two base huts were created, describes, without obvious complaint, the extreme difficulties under which Operation Tabarin was organised and carried out whilst Britain waged a war that was still in full flow. Although it was a military operation, and Taylor was in the Army, his account (like all others) reveals no

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military activity whatsoever, but I have often wondered whether the men ever thought about how they would get home if World War II were lost.

I found Taylor's account of his journeys particularly good value, because he described them in considerable detail, and he travelled with a strong sense of history and with a highly appreciative view of the landscape. He and his colleagues worked (at both bases) with pitifully inadequate equipment, no inherited polar field-craft, and in very uncomfortable physical conditions. All of these made their achievement even more impressive.

Taylor philosophically accepted the war-time difficulties, and ruefully summarised the hardships of their first man-haul journey from Port Lockroy as "An interesting journey in which to partake, and [one which] gave insight into the laborious methods and equipment that explorers had been forced to use in the early part of the century. It is not a method that should be followed today, especially along coastlines like western Graham Land."

The conditions under which he and his colleagues sledged with dogs around James Ross Island were also related in a matter-of-fact way, but were truly dreadful. Ivan Mackenzie Lamb, who (for practical reasons) trailed behind the others at some of the worst moments, recorded, in his own account, conditions that were even worse for him, and were probably not at all fully known to the others.

For the Canadian editors to imply that David James wrote a somewhat sensational account (compared to Taylor's measured one) of the journey in order to get it published seems unjust, but, as Haddelsey points out, this occasion (when James questioned Taylor's plan and suggested an alternative) was a turning point in their hitherto amicable relationship. As leader, Taylor must surely take responsibility for the mess they were in - unpredictable though some of it may have been. With more experience, for example, he would probably not have allowed the party to jettison their skis, and he was probably too hopeful of salvaging any food and fuel which Nordenskjöld might have left behind. Nevertheless, they did it. They mapped a very large area, and they collected masses of geological and botanical specimens.

Maps are the least satisfactory element in both books, and they compare poorly with those of David James. None of the Canadian ones have scales, but I prefer them to Haddelsey's.

Both books include many photographs, which are very welcome and are mostly newly available. The Canadians have only used black-and-white ones from the Taylor fonds, and it is a pity that they are not printed on glossy paper. By contrast, Haddelsey has found many new photographs that are held by the families of the participants, and has incorporated modern colour ones of Port Lockroy. They will be printed on high quality paper.

Although the two texts are very similar, Heidt and Lackenbauer have incorporated other nuggets that Taylor had written, and which they had unearthed in the extensive archives at Manitoba University. These include, for example, an interesting footnote that Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, (the pioneering, Canadian, polar pilot) was in the cockpit on Taylor's first flight.

By contrast, Stephen Haddelsey has added footnotes of a much wider interest which he has gleaned from his extensive knowledge of so many other sources. These include an image of the charming 1944 mid-winter menu at Port Lockroy by courtesy of "Jerry" Farrington, and a footnote about the hitherto ignored Kenneth Blair, who Marr had dismissed earlier from Operation Tabarin.

On balance, Haddelsey's editing seems to have been the more careful of the two versions, and I am pedantically delighted to see that (unlike the Canadians) he now writes Neptunes Bellows correctly without an apostrophe. He also corrects grammatical errors such as "Lamb and me" to "Lamb and I" because the pronouns are nominative (Canadians, page 254, Haddelsey, page 238). Nevertheless, minor errors (such as the spelling of Jerry (page 8) or Gerry (page 201) Farrington) have crept in.

For their part, the Canadians repeatedly refer to the correct place-name Duse Bay, whilst always referring to the man after whom it was named (Samuel August Duse) as Ole Duss.

For a direct comparison of quality, Heidt and Lackenbauer (page 183) include a phrase "in early August". If this was Taylor's phrase they should have corrected it, and if they had inserted it themselves, they got it wrong because it should have been April. By contrast it doesn't appear at all in Haddelsey (page 188), either because it wasn't there in the first place, or because he spotted the error.

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Trivial though such things may be, the reader is also left perplexed as to whether the men at Hope Bay had a meeting on May 16th (Canadians, page 208) or on July 16 (Haddelsey, page 203), to set the departure date of August 10th for their main journey, More seriously, one may wonder whether Taylor wrote (in the context of ski-ing) that "none of us had much experience" (Canadians, page 79) or "none of us had any experience" (Haddelsey, page 92).

The aforementioned day of July 16th was, according to both versions, the day when some of the men made an excursion to the Depot Glacier. In this context, Heidt and Lackenbauer repeat the delightful story, which David James first told, of the puppies Hobbs and Hinks following them to exhaustion, whereas Haddelsey's version has no mention of them. David James shows great empathy with dogs, and his story is as much theirs as his.

There are many similar small differences in content between the two versions of Taylor's story, but it may of course be that Taylor's various unpublished drafts are reflected accurately in both of the published versions. Whatever, it is excellent they are both now in print and that we can appreciate a little better, the fragility of the first permanent British footholds on the Antarctic Peninsula. To Taylor and his colleagues, we are surely most grateful, and to the editors of his story for offering it to us.

Keith Holmes
30 Nov 2017

PRIESTLEY'S PROGRESS

The Life of Sir Raymond Priestley, Antarctic Explorer, Scientist, Soldier, Acadamecian

McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers
ISBN (print) 978-0-7864-7805-7
ISBN (book) 978-1-4766-2870-7

Review by Dick Harbour

It makes a refreshing change to review a book that is not written by somebody who has travelled in the Antarctic continent on a bicycle, roller skates, in a balloon, or running backwards, with no intention of adding to our knowledge of the Continent but simply to publicise themselves on Twitter/ Face book, asking for money to cover their costs and hopefully be awarded a medal and be on Television.

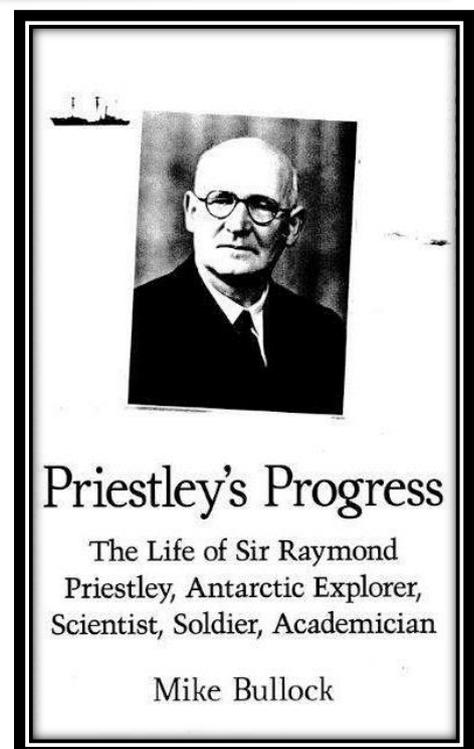
This book titled " Priestley's` Progress " covers the life and achievements of Raymond Priestley. A man of many parts; foremost a distinguished Antarctic Explorer, Scientist, Soldier, Academician and not least a family man.

The Author of this long overdue Biography, Mike Bullock, is an American who first met Priestley in his role as Official Historian of the British Army Signal Service following the First World War.

The book covers the early years in Tewkesbury, his involvement in the Shackleton Nimrod and Scott's Terra Nova Expeditions, the First World War and the establishment of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge.

Later chapters deal with his association with Universities: Birmingham, Melbourne and Cambridge, Commission for Higher Education in the Colonies, Acting Director of FIDS, American Deep Freeze IV Expedition and President of the Royal Geographical Society. All through his life he strove to give added value to his commitments either through scientific or humanitarian considerations.

I feel that anybody, with Antarctic experience or not, will find the book an interesting and worthwhile read and be amazed at the breadth of activities that Raymond Priestley packed into his life.



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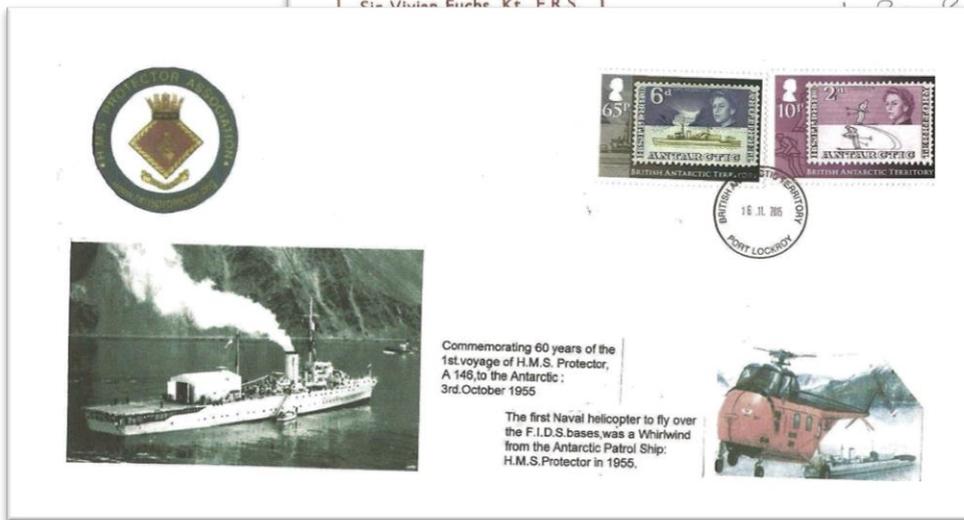
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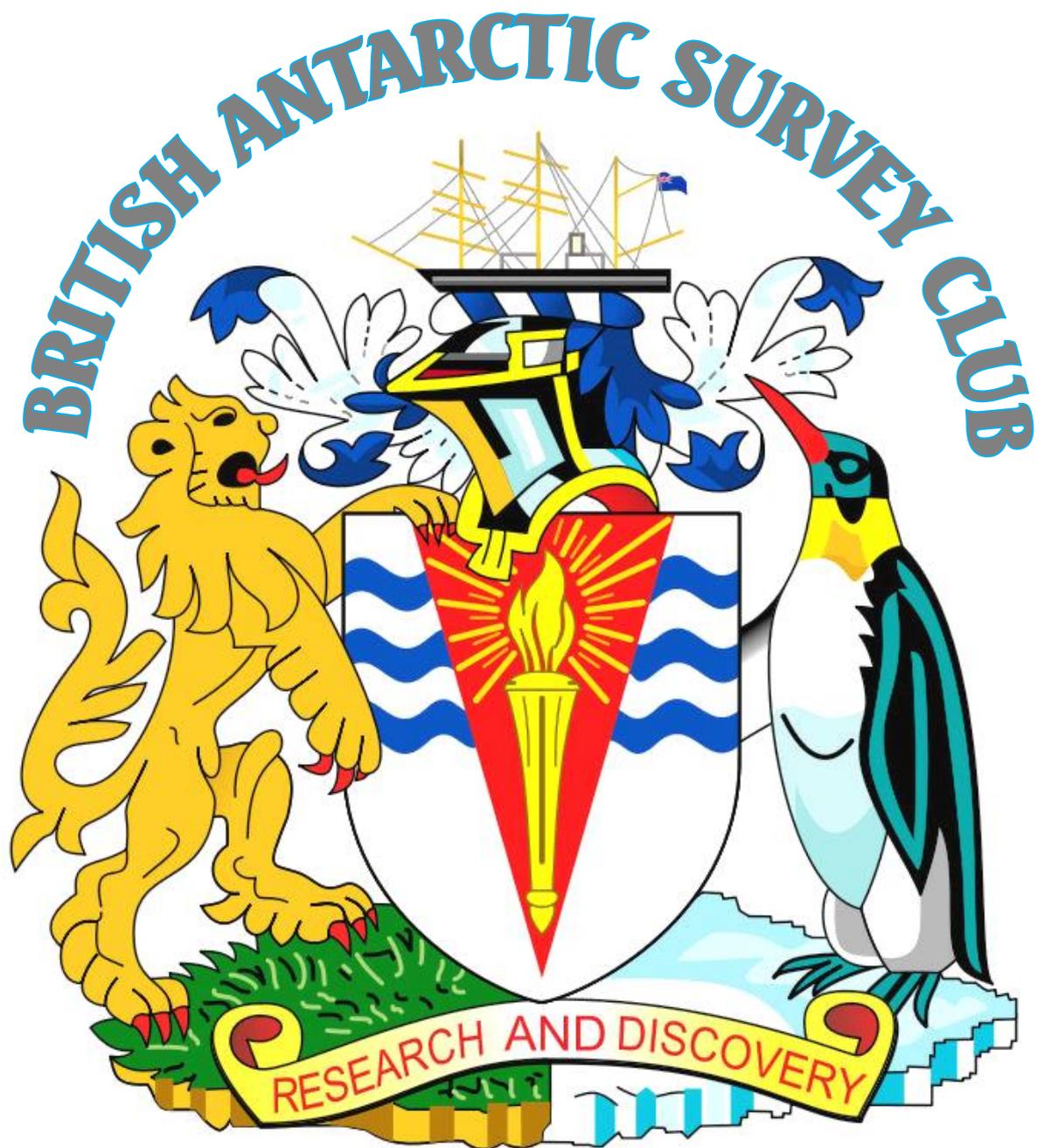
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