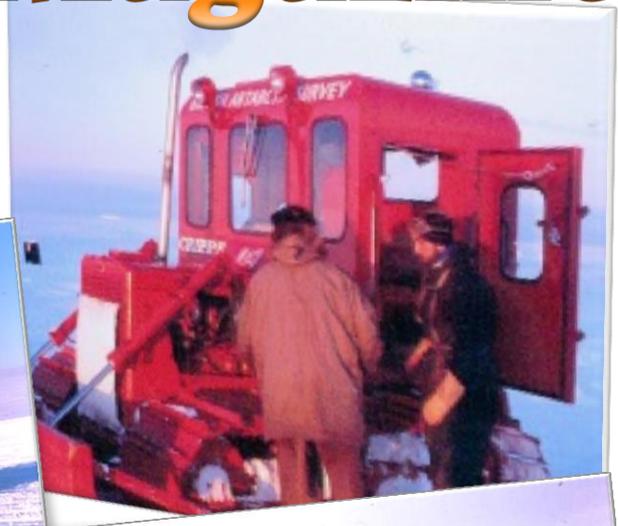


*No 79  
May 2018*



# *BAS Club*

# *Magazine*





## BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY CLUB COMMITTEE

### OFFICE

### RETIREMENT

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

All secretarial emails should be directed to Tony Wincott  
Tel:- 07702 055601 email [info.basclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.basclub@gmail.com)

All enquiries about Membership and Change of Address should be sent to the  
Membership Secretary – Alex Gaffikin  
email [alexgaffikin@yahoo.com](mailto:alexgaffikin@yahoo.com)

For Benevolent Support matters contact Allan Wearden, 18 East Lancs Road,  
Blackburn, Lancs BB1 9QZ Tel: 01254 247541  
email [allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.wearden@btinternet.com)

All Financial Correspondance send to the Treasurer Dog Holden, Brindle House,  
Highmoor, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9LQ  
Tel: 0167 345020 email [dog@harter.org.uk](mailto:dog@harter.org.uk)

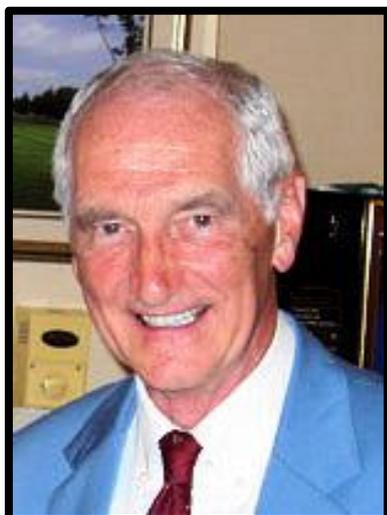
Please send material for the Magazine direct to Keith J Gainey, 6 Chaffinch Way,  
Shrewsbury SY1 4TR  
Tel: 07970597287 email [pengwinge@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pengwinge@yahoo.co.uk)



## CONTENTS

	page
LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN	3
EDITORIAL	4
BAS CLUB NEWS	
43rd AGM Agenda	5
Club Accounts 2017	6
Financial Protocols	10
Data Protection	12
BAS Club Committee News	14
BAS Club Committee Meetings	14
Benevolent Fund	15
BAS Club Online	15
New Members	16
SIGNY Reunion Sep 2018	17
Memorial Orchard update	18
43rdBAS Club AGM and Reunion Cambridge	19
44th BAS Club AGM and Reunion North Wales	23
45th BAS Club AGM and Reunion Dinner Dundee	24
FUCHS Medal	25
BAOHP update	26
Marguerite Bay Reunion 2018	27
MEMBERS WEBSITE	28
ANTARCTIC NEWS	
BAS News	30
Antarctic Heritage Trust News	36
SNIPPETS AND LETTERS	38
FEATURES	
Rooftop Expedition	42
by Lewis Jukes	
Antarctic Sojourn	46
by Peter Hay	
Jim Franks Diary Part V	50
OBITUARIES, "IN MEMORIAM"; TRIBUTES	70
BOOK REVIEWS	
Four Antarctic Years in The South Orkneys	79
by Jose Manual Moneta	
Reviewed by Keith Holmes	
North Ice to South Ice - The Antarctic Life and Times of the Newfoundland Ships	
"Eagle and Trepassy" by Anthony Dickinson	80
Reviewed by Peter Bird	
Far From Land by Michael Brooks	82
Reviewed by Steve Krikler	
William Spiers Bruce "The Forgotten Hero" by Isobel P Williams & John Dudeney	
Reviewed by Steve Wroe	83
Antarctica – The Impossible Crossing by Geoff Somers MBE	
Reviewed by Chris Brading	84
CLUB ITEMS FOR SALE	86

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN



*Dear Fids,*

I hope that you all enjoy this edition of the BAS Club Magazine.

Members have, once more, given us interesting and stimulating articles and reviews, in addition to highlighting some issues faced by more elderly members. The Club is very grateful to Keith Gainey for editing and collating this, to Allan Wearden for the support to members that he so freely gives in his role as Benevolent Secretary, and to those un-named members who keep an eye on fellow members who may be experiencing some difficulties.

There has been a good deal of background activity with regard to the details of actually running BAS Club - almost like a "spring-clean". Treasurer Dog Holden has revised the financial protocols of the Club - not an easy or a quick task, and a team of Gainey, Holden and Wincott has been responsible for updating the BAS Club Management Plan. Alex Gaffikin has spent a lot of time sorting out data protection issues. Our thanks go to them all.

We are maintaining cordial relations with BAS. The Memorandum of Understanding with BAS has been updated and agreed by the Director of BAS and by the Chairman of BAS Club.

We continue to co-operate with BAS on the management and care of the Memorial Orchard, defining the role and remit of contributors. John Fry is our representative on the BAS/BAS Club Orchard Committee, and is assisted by volunteer Paul Ward (ex-Signy Marine Biologist). Both are generously giving time and expertise as is Tony Wincott doing various jobs in the Orchard. There are also groups from BAS who make significant contributions, including "Biodiversity" and "Apple" groups.

The Club has a new representative on the Laws Prize Committee - Mike Pinnock. He has graciously accepted this role and has been co-opted onto the BAS Club Committee

One major figure, just retired from BAS (Archives), is Jo Rae. Jo has freely helped the Club on many occasions through the years and particularly in relation to the Oral History Project and the Memorial Orchard. We send sincere thanks and our very best wishes for her retirement.

With best wishes.

*Terry Allen*

# British Antarctic Survey Club

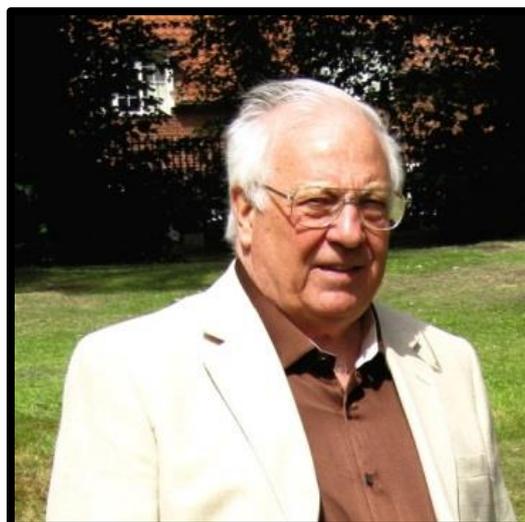
## EDITORIAL

Well – the front cover!!

There is a well known and likeable 90 year old (this month of May) FID that thinks that not enough credence is given to the tractors of BAS with too much emphasis being on the dogs and their roles.

Well so he is 90 this month I thought he might be cheered up with a few pictures of his favourite tractors and gave it front cover space.

The photos were all taken at Halley 1967-1968 by myself so cannot blame anyone for any bad quality.



The 2017 Accounts - these are presented in a new format and members are requested to ensure that they have read these and raise any questions at the AGM in Cambridge.

Allan Wearden has an unusual copy of *The SPHERE* magazine Memorial number of the Scott Antarctic Expedition 1910-1913 from May 1913 available for auction – under Benevolent Fund update – proceeds to the Benevolent Fund.

Not so much Antarctic News from BAS Ice sheet as a lot of the items are not related to Antarctica.

Dog Holden has given an update on Kenn Back, in Uruguay, and if anyone wishes to contact Ken in Uruguay please get in touch with Dog who will give you the relevant details for posting.

A new slant on life 'down south' sent in by Peter Hay looking at life from a ship's officer pint of view. His accounts stretch to some 19 pages so I have extracted a few interesting items.

Once again the magazine has some excellent books reviewed – the reading seems to be coming constantly about the South. 'North Ice to South Ice' was a book highlighted as being published in the last magazine (no 78 December 2018) and there is a review added into this magazine. There has been some excellent book reviewing from Keith Holmes, Peter Bird, Steve Wroe, Steve Krikler and Chris Brading – my thanks go to them for taking their time to read and review the books.

Under club sales has been added another Halley Badge – this one Halley 60 – of which Tony has a limited stock of 10 only – first come first served, as they say

There is plenty of reading in the magazine – so enjoy .



# BAS Club News

## The British Antarctic Survey Club The 43rd Annual General Meeting Agenda

**Date:** July 14<sup>th</sup> 2018

**Start time:** 17:30 Sharp!

**Venue:** The Jack Colville Hall

Churchill College Cambridge

**Club President :**

Barry Heywood **BH**

**Committee Officers:**

Chairman: Terry Allen **TA**  
Secretary: Tony Wincott **TW**  
Treasurer: Dog Holden **GH**  
Membership Secretary: Alex Gaffikin **AG**  
Magazine Editor: Keith Gainey **KG**

**Committee Members:**

Ellie Stoneley **ES**, John Fry **JF**, John Blunn **JB**  
Paul Coslett **PC**, Allan Wearden **AW**.

**Co-Opted Members:** Anne Todd **AT**. Bev Ager **BA**

**Welcome and H&S Brief**

1. Apologies for absence **TW**
2. Agree, accept and sign the Minutes of 42nd AGM 2017 **TA / TW**
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM 2017 **TA**
4. Chairman's report. **TA**
5. Secretary's report. **TW**
6. Treasurer's report. **GH**
7. Magazine editor's report. **KG**
8. Membership Secretary's report. **AG (TW)**
9. Election of Committee / Officers. **TA/TW**  
Ellie Stoneley Media Portfolio  
John Blunn General Portfolio  
Paul Coslett Fuchs Medal Portfolio  
John Fry Heritage Support Portfolio
10. Data Protection Policy . Statement **TA**
11. Heritage Elements Report **JF**
  - a. Report on Memorial Garden **JF**
  - b. Oral History Report **AW**
12. Benevolent Fund Report **AW**
13. Fuchs Medal Report **PC**
14. Web report **KG**
15. Update on future AGM venues **TW**
  - a. Protocol for raising significant issues at the AGM. Committee prerogative to defer. **TW**
16. AoB
17. Next AGM: June 2018 Swallow Falls Hotel N Wales ( Venue change ) **Note**

Declare the meeting closed !

**Please note that the meeting will be recorded to aid accuracy with transposing the minutes**

# BAS Club News

## 2017 ACCOUNTS

### British Antarctic Survey Club Accounts for Year Ending 31 December 2017

Note from the Club Treasurer

Fellow Club Members

I am pleased to present these accounts for your information. As well as the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet, this year you will find details of the Funds Administered by the club, the Benevolent Fund, Laws Prize and Fuchs Medal. These are in a simpler format than the main Club Accounts but trust they provide sufficient detail.

I will be speaking to the accounts during my report to members at the Club AGM in July. Since there will be limited time for discussion at that event, could members please let the Club Secretary, Tony Wincott, have any questions or points they wish to be raised at the meeting well in advance? We will then be able to answer them fully (I hope!).

If there are minor questions which do not justify time at the AGM please raise them with me in the meantime.

Club Member Adrian Apps has done a lot of work on these accounts as our Independent Examiner, over and above that normally associated with the role. His help has been invaluable, and I wish to place on record my and the Club's gratitude to him.

Thanks

Dog Holden

*Editor:- the notes to the accounts are printed first to fit into the pages*

### **Notes to Income and Expenditure Account 2017**

#### **NOTE**

- 1 Increase in subscriptions due to collection of arrears and efforts to ensure members' subscriptions accord with their membership status. Based on membership numbers at the present time, subscription income should be about £12,800. p.a.
- 2 One fewer Committee Meeting and greater use of IT (Skype) attendance by committee members has reduced costs for 2017.
- 3 No IT Training costs, only routine maintenance on website has reduced costs.
- 4 No Oral Heritage interviews carried out during 2017.
- 5 Less "exceptional maintenance" work necessary on Memorial Orchard during 2017.
- 6 The surplus has come from the one-off windfall of subscription arrears per note 1 and the reduction of costs noted.

### **Notes to Balance Sheet @ 31 December 2017**

- 1 Funds held for and on behalf of Halley Bay base reunion organisers.

# BAS Club News

## British Antarctic Survey Club Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	£	£	£	NOTES
		2017	2016	
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Bank balances @ 31 December</b>				
Current a/c	7,492.70		6,474.51	
Oral Heritage Fund	515.85		475.85	
Memorial Orchard Fund	84.22		833.14	
PayPal a/c	499.00		492.28	
<b>Total Cash at Bank</b>	<b>8,591.77</b>		<b>8,275.78</b>	
<b>Debtors &amp; Prepayments</b>				
Loan for H Reunion	500.00		0.00	
2018 Reunion exps.	54.72		54.72	
2018 Reunion Deposit	1429.80		250.00	
Mem Orchard	0.00		270.00	
Committee exps	0.00		124.60	
<b>Total Debtors &amp; Prepayments</b>	<b>1,984.52</b>		<b>699.32</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>10,576.29</b>	<b>8,975.10</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Creditors and Accruals</b>				
2018 Subs paid 2017	170.00		140.00	
Printing of Magazine	0.00		3408.00	
Meeting/Admin exps	0.00		523.59	
Halley Z60 balance	2777.24		0.00	1
Reunion income received in prior year	0.00		988.00	
Memorial Orchard	219.44		301.55	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,166.68</b>	<b>5361.14</b>	
<b>ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES</b>		<b>7,409.61</b>	<b>3,613.96</b>	
Represented by opening Net Assets (2016)		3,613.96	4,953.35	
plus Surplus for Year ( from I and E)		3,795.65	-1,339.39	
<b>Closing Net Assets</b>		<b>7,409.61</b>	<b>3,613.96</b>	

I report on the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements.

My examination included a review of the accounting records as well as explanations given to me.

In my opinion the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements give a true and fair view of the transactions of the BAS Club for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Signed and Dated

*Adrian L Apps* 26/4/2018

Independent Examiner:

Adrian L Apps

# BAS Club News

## British Antarctic Survey Club Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2017

INCOME		2017 £	2016 £	NOTES
<b>Subscriptions</b>				
	Standing Orders/Ch.	13,238.00	11,794.00	
	PayPal	464.07	141.13	
		13,702.07	11,935.13	1
<b>Reunion</b>				
	Reunion Receipts	3,611.00	4,536.00	
<b>Other Income</b>				
	Magazine Postage	-	12.50	
	Bank Charge Refund	49.53	0.57	
	Donation from Member	150.00		
	Sales of Club Merchandise	357.66	370.79	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>17,870.26</b>	<b>16,854.99</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Magazine</b>				
	Printing & postage	7,114.27	6,591.16	
<b>Reunion</b>				
	Venue and Expenses	3,637.23	4,718.39	
<b>Other expenses</b>				
	Committee/Admin.	1,606.18	2,379.47	2
	Minutes Secretary	210.00	280.00	
	Donation-Laws Exhib.	-	500.00	
	Website. IT Training	311.99	1,107.79	3
	Cost of Goods	275.77	652.64	
	Oral Heritage Fund expenses	-	719.35	4
	Donations to Ben. Fund	145.00	-	
	Memorial Orchard expenses	774.17	1,245.58	5
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>14,074.61</b>	<b>18,194.38</b>	
<b>Income less Expenditure</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<b>3,795.65</b>	<b>- 1,339.39</b>	6

I report on the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements.  
My examination included a review of the accounting records as well as explanations given to me.  
In my opinion the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements give a true and fair view of the transactions of the BAS Club for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Signed and Dated

*Adrian L Apps* 26/4/2018

Independent Examiner:

Adrian L Apps

# BAS Club News

## BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY CLUB

### Funds Held and Administered by BAS Club for the Year 2017

	£		£
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>			
balance @ 01.01.2017	15,585.70	Payments-Expenses	276.54
Donation from B.A.T	500.00	Donation	240.00
Member's Legacy	2,891.30	Subscriptions	85.00
Sales-books, paintings, auctions	569.75	balance @ 31.12.2017	19,552.21
Members' Donations	607.00		
	<b>20,153.75</b>		<b>20,153.75</b>
<b>Laws Prize</b>			
balance @ 01.01.2017	1,950.23	Payments Prizes	446.17
Donation fm. Laws Exhibition	1,133.66	Expenses	206.4
		balance @ 31.12.2017	2,781.32
Donation from B.A.T	350.00		
	<b>3,433.89</b>		<b>3,433.89</b>
<b>Fuchs Medal</b>			
balance @ 01/01/2017	1,752.43	balance @ 31.12.2017	2,102.43
Donation B.A.T.	350.00		
	<b>2,102.43</b>		<b>2,102.43</b>
<b>Halley Base Z60</b>			
balance @ 01.01.2017	0.00	balance @ 31.12.2017	2,177.24
Deposits March 2017	2,177.24		
	<b>2,177.24</b>		<b>2,177.24</b>

I report on the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements.

My examination included a review of the accounting records as well as explanations given to me.

In my opinion the Income & Expenditure account, Balance Sheet and Funds Statements give a true and fair view of the transactions of the BAS Club for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Signed and Dated

*Adrian L Apps* 26/4/2018.

Independent Examiner:

**Adrian L Apps**

# BAS Club News

## FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS

As the manager of the finances of the Club the Committee has developed the following Protocols to provide clarification on aid and assistance to members. The Protocols will form part of a Management Plan

### PROTOCOL FOR ORGANISING BAS CLUB REUNION DINNER EVENTS

#### Introduction:

British Antarctic Survey Club (BASC) holds an Annual Reunion Dinner for its members. By tradition this is held as close to the Austral Mid-Winter (Northern Hemisphere Mid-Summer) as reasonably possible, thus a weekend around 21 June.

For organisational and logistic reasons, the Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM), per Constitution 10.9, is held to coincide with the reunion. Normally but not essentially this means at the same or an adjacent venue and just prior to the reunion dinner itself.

#### Methodology:

- 1) The Club Committee, via its Secretary, shall seek, by Club Website, Club Magazine and other media, suggestions/proposals regarding suitable venues and the organisation of future events from amongst the membership.
- 2) The Committee will require that a proposal be put to it by the member(s) putting forward the venue. Issues to be covered include but are not limited to: the location and facilities of the venue, appropriate type of menu, accommodation details, numbers catered for, likely cost and financial viability, accessibility including by public transport, visitor attractions in the area, suitability for the AGM (see above). The Committee may also consider how the proposer(s) will "manage" the event, their proximity to the proposed venue and any other matters considered of relevance.
- 3) It is required that the reunion and dinner (as distinct from the AGM itself) shall at least break even. It is accepted that there is always uncertainty over the eventual number of members who will attend, and thus the income arising therefrom, but a reasonable sum to cover the organiser's expenses plus contingencies should be allowed for in setting the price per head to be charged to attendees. The principle is that members who do not attend the reunion should not subsidise those who do. Extra activities such as coach trips, visitor attraction entrance fees etc which are laid on should be charged separately to those members concerned. Organisers' expenses should be minimised by use of IT and by avoiding unnecessary travel. If due to unforeseen circumstances a deficit is incurred the club will take the financial risk.
- 4) The Committee can advise organisers of the numbers who have attended previous reunions and help with forming a judgement as to likely numbers on which an estimate of the issues in 3. above can be made. Ultimately it is the Committee's decision as to whether to accept the proposal with the club taking the financial risk, bearing in mind all these factors. Thus, no financial penalty would fall on the organisers other than in cases of gross negligence or fraud.
- 5) The AGM itself will be managed by the Club Secretary and, where possible, associated costs met by the Club (see 7 & 8 below). Given that the venue for the AGM is usually part of the same facility that hosts the Reunion Dinner, there will inevitably be close liaison between the Secretary and the Reunion Organiser.
- 6) If the provision of the AGM venue (typically a room and jugs of water) is charged separately by the facility management and thus costs are clearly identified, the Club itself will cover the cost and not the reunion/dinner event organisers.
- 7) If the provision of the AGM is included in the total cost for the dinner/reunion, "thrown-in" as it were, the total cost will be borne by the organisers and thus the members attending.

# BAS Club News

## SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS' REUNIONS, MEETINGS ETC

**BAS Club's Constitution states per Clause 4.3, that one of the objectives of the club is: "to encourage and assist, as appropriate, other members' reunions, meetings, lectures, film shows and memorial projects, at the discretion of the BAS Club Committee".**

### **Introduction:**

The following protocol concentrates mainly on requests for financial assistance, but the principles will apply to all forms of help, sought or offered.

### **Methodology:**

- 1) Requests/proposals be made to the Club Committee via the Treasurer or Secretary in writing (including email). The Treasurer will initially study these submissions and seek such information as is deemed necessary to clarify and/or support the request. The Treasurer will then put this information, together with his/her comments and recommendations, to the Committee for a decision. The Treasurer would then inform the applicant and make any necessary financial arrangements.
- 2) Issues to be covered by the applicant should include: details of the activity concerned, what is the evidence that the funds are needed e.g. is there a request for a deposit for the venue chosen for an event, would the event go ahead without the club's assistance, does the proposed activity align with the Club's constitution, how and by whom will the event be managed, what are the financial risks and how will they be mitigated, what are the repayment proposals?
- 3) If a grant is sought for an income-generating project, the club will require repayment if a surplus is subsequently made (but write it off if the project fails);
- 4) The Committee will also consider, if a Base-specific or other type of reunion is proposed, what may be its potential impact on other such events, particularly the Club's own Annual Reunion?
- 5) The member(s) receiving the loan will be personally responsible for repaying it. They would be encouraged to take out insurance to cover financial losses incurred which would lead to a default on the loan.
- 6) As of 2018 the maximum grant or loan will be £500 per event. This amount will be reviewed by the committee from time to time. Note that this is a maximum and the club's financial viability and any other similar outstanding commitments at that time will be taken into consideration and the amount offered may be lower than this figure.
- 7) Applicants must be aware that their request may be turned down. They would be informed of the Committee's decision and reasons for it in writing by the Treasurer. Appeals may be considered if facts as above change materially.

**Members are asked to note all of the above and pass on any comments to the Club Treasurer,**

**Dog Holden e-mail : [dog@harter.org.uk](mailto:dog@harter.org.uk)**

**or by mail to Dog Holden; Brindle House, Highmoor, Wigton, Cumbris CA7 9LQ**

# BAS Club News

## DATA PROTECTION

There is new regulation in regards to Data Protection which will apply to the BAS Club. The BAS Club Membership Secretary, Alex Gaffikin, has worked on and written a Policy for Implementing Data Protection in accordance with the regulation

### General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

Information taken from <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/>

Key points

- The GDPR will apply in the UK from 25 May 2018.
- It applies to our organisation

## BAS CLUB POLICY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

### Purpose of the British Antarctic Survey Club (BAS Club)

In essence, the purpose of the club is to facilitate and promote contact and networking amongst its members.

### Personal data

When you apply to join the BAS Club you supply your name and service details, and one or all of the following: postal address, email address, and telephone number. We will store this data for the time it takes to process your application. If your application is unsuccessful we will delete all your personal data.

If your application is successful, you give consent for us to hold the data you supplied the Club with for as long as your membership lasts. We also keep records of your subscription payment history.

### Purpose of data

Your name, service details, postal address, email address, and telephone number data are collected for the benefit of the Club, Club Committee and Club members.

### Location of data

When you first apply, your application form is temporarily stored on our Club Site's restricted back-end on Wordpress which is accessible to some committee members and our website manager at Digital Nomads.

All personal and subscription data is kept digitally on a database which the Membership Secretary and Treasurer have direct access to. The database is located on a secure shared drive. Archived historic copies are kept on the personal computers of the Membership Secretary and Treasurer in case the latest copy is damaged or destroyed.

Club member names and email addresses are published online, in the members-only access section of the website.

Members' club reference numbers, names and email addresses are also stored on the secure BAS Club wordpress website: <http://basclub.org/>

### Data sharing

The Membership Secretary and Treasurer have access to all the data you supply to us.

Club member names and email addresses are published online – in the members-only access section of the website - for all Club members to have access to. If you don't want your name and email address included in this list, then please contact the Membership Secretary.

Your postal address will only be passed to another Club member if they request it. If you do not wish your details passed on to other members, without your consultation first, please let the Membership Secretary know.

If members have a subscription option for a printed copy of the magazine, their names and postal addresses are shared with the Magazine Editor who also shares them with the printer.

Subscription information about fee payment is only available to the BAS Club Committee in certain individual cases and is never shared with other Club members. The committee does not get a list of all members' subscription fee data.

No personal data is explicitly shared with third parties or other organisations; however, BAS Club members are often members of other organisations e.g. the British Antarctic Survey or the UK Antarctic Heritage Trust. If you are a member of another organisation, you are not allowed to share personal data that you have gleaned as part of membership of the BAS Club with those other organisations.

# BAS Club News

- Data of former members are not shared without consent from the former member.
- Data of any members under the age of 16 will not be shared outside the Committee without consent from the member and their parent or guardian.
- Ex-BAS Club committee members must delete any copies they have of Club members' personal or subscription details.

## **Use of data by members**

Organisers of Club meetings, Club reunions or events associated with Club business are allowed to contact members en masse but must adhere to this policy and notification.

Members are not allowed to use the email lists for contacting all or most members en masse for their own personal reasons e.g fund raising for a cause or advertising a business.

## **Accuracy of data**

If your details change, it is your responsibility to alert the Membership Secretary and Treasurer who will then update the records. If you wish to up-date your details you must contact the Membership Secretary or Treasurer by post, email or through the on-line form. The Membership Secretary and Treasurer will endeavour to keep the data accurate.

## **Data storage length**

As your data is collected for the benefit of the Club and Club members, unless otherwise requested, the data will be kept for as long as you are a member.

Once a person has ceased to be a member, some basic data (Club reference numbers, names and service records) are kept indefinitely for archiving. All other data including postal and email addresses and phone numbers will be deleted 5 years after the end of Club membership.

This basic data is retained:

- As an archive of membership
- In case the member wants to renew their membership after a lapse
- In case a Next of Kin (N.O.K) wishes to take over the membership.

It is also worth noting that if a N.O.K. of a deceased member joins, some of the data from the deceased member may continue in the record if, for example, they share an address or subscription record.

## **Erasure**

If you request that all your contact details are removed from the database then you will cease to be a member. Any money you pay subsequently will be assumed to be a donation to the Club.

## **Third parties and social media**

Please note that this notification is only about personal data given to the BAS Club. This notification does not cover data that you share with third parties like the British Antarctic Survey, UKAHT or Facebook. These organisations all have their own data protection policies.

## **Member's rights**

- You have a right to be informed about your data. This document explains what happens to the data you supply.
- You have a right of access. You can ask the Membership Secretary at any time for a copy of your data held by the BAS Club.
- You have a right of rectification. You can ask the Membership Secretary or Treasurer to update the data at any time.
- You have a right of erasure. Your data can be deleted at any time.
- You have a right to restrict processing. Please alert the Membership Secretary if you don't want any details shared with other Club members.
- You have a right to data portability. If you request that we pass your details to a third party then we will.
- You have a right to object. You can request that we cease to process your data or use your data at any time. This is different to erasing data. We keep the data but just don't use.
- The GDPR provides safeguards for individuals against the risk that a potentially damaging decision is taken without human intervention. The BAS Club does not use autonomous processing of data.

# BAS Club News

## MANAGEMENT OF THE POLICY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR):

### Officer responsible for monitoring and managing GDPR:

The Membership Secretary on, behalf of the BAS Club Committee, is responsible for management and monitoring of the Policy. This responsibility will be in the Membership Secretary's portfolio.

### Monitoring compliance:

Requests from members with respect to access and erasure of their data will be acted on within 4 weeks.

The database will be reviewed annually between January and March to check the data is correct.

Any breaches in compliance will be reported to officers of the BAS Club Committee within 72 hours of it being discovered. Individuals will be notified if an adverse impact is determined.

### Policy review period

The policy will be reviewed annually. This will usually be done prior to the AGM. The next review will be prior to the 2019 AGM.

### Management Plan

This policy will be incorporated into the BAS Club Management Plan

### Notification about this policy

The policy will be distributed to all members via the following channels:

- Club Magazine
- Website news article
- Placed permanently on the website to be read, and agree to, before any person who wishes to become a member puts in their application
- Sent to prospective members who want to apply through other means e.g by email
- It will be sent to all new members along with their membership documentation

If you have any concerns or questions about this policy and its management, please contact

**Alexandra Gaffikin** Membership Secretary [alexgaffikin@yahoo.com](mailto:alexgaffikin@yahoo.com)

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## BAS CLUB COMMITTEE NEWS

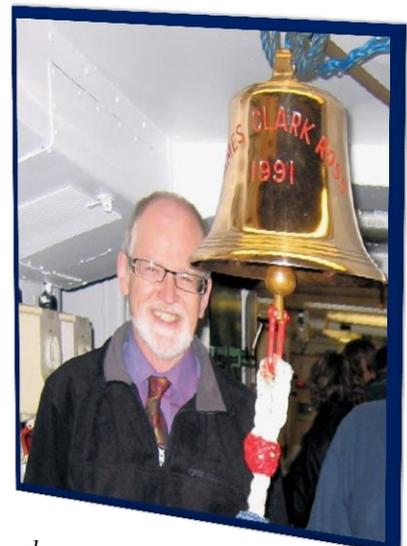
### New Member co-opted to Laws Prize Award Committee

#### Mike Pinnock

BAS requires a knowledgeable person to sit on the Laws Prize Award Committee to review submissions and contribute to decisions, Submissions for the Laws Prize have become increasingly complicated. After the BAS Club Chairman had discussion with BAS with regard to his suitability to sit on the Laws Prize Award Committee, he resigned from that committee.

Mike Pinnock, a Club member working at a senior level in BAS for many years, has kindly agreed to represent the BAS Club on the Laws Prize Award Committee. BAS have welcomed this move.

Mike's role will be to contribute to the decision-making process at BAS and also to act as a liaison person with regard to the use of funds, which are administered by BAS Club.



*Mike Pinnock*

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## BAS CLUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 2016/2017

2018	14 July	AGM & Reunion Dinner – Churchill College Cambridge
2018	6 September	Committee Meeting I Cambridge

# BAS Club News

## **BENEVOLENT FUND from Allan Wearden**

Firstly I would like to thank the various people that have donated to the fund, either from the proceeds of talks or just being generous and of course those donating items to be auctioned off, all which helps keep the fund in a very healthy state as usually the only income is from an annual donation from the FCO.

At this year's (2018) AGM I will have a good selection of books and some Mike Skidmore prints from the estate of the late Steve Norris to auction off.

I did say in my last report I was going to ask the question at the AGM if it was possible to amend the club constitution to cover grants to former Fids that weren't club members. Having discussed this in a recent committee meeting it was decided this wouldn't be possible and we could always look into other means of help if this situation arose again like we did for the Mike Butler fund last year.

As usual if you know of another club member who is suffering any kind of hardship please get in touch with me as we may be able to help in many ways.

Allan Wearden e-mail:- [Allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:Allan.wearden@btinternet.com) or Telephone:- 01254 247541.

## **IN AID OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND**

### **OFFERS INVITED!**

I have an unusual copy of *The SPHERE* magazine Memorial number of the Scott Antarctic Expedition 1910-1913 from May 1913 available. Rather tatty cover but good inside, lots of photos and articles with interesting adverts, priced at one shilling! (YES THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL PRICING!)

Money raised will go to the benevolent fund and will keep the bids open till the MBR 2018 in November.

All bids direct to me please: [allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.wearden@btinternet.com) or 01254 247541.

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## **BAS CLUB ONLINE**

### **FACEBOOK**

[www.facebook.com/BritishAntarcticSurveyClub](https://www.facebook.com/BritishAntarcticSurveyClub)

by Ellie Stoneley



"The BAS Club facebook page continues to be well used with 1260 followers. Many simply follow the links (news snippets, pages of interest, obituaries and club updates), others comment and respond and we've also had some wonderful photographs contributed.

### **WEBSITE**

[www.BASClub.org](http://www.BASClub.org)

by Bev Ager/Keith Gainey

Members are reminded that if they have any problem to 'log in' to the website please contact the club membership secretary, Alex Gaffikin, for their password etc.

The website automatically sends an e-mail to all members whenever a new post or article is added



# BAS Club News

## NEW MEMBERS

Since June 2017 the Club has accepted the following as new or returning BAS Club Members

2330	Mr	Stephen	Jesson	Biscoe and Bransfield 1977 to 1990 --- 2nd cook and baker Chief Cook
2331	Mr	Iain	Goodfellow	3 years at Faraday (over-wintered) 1989 to 1992. Base commander for the second winter.
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	Reinstated
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:
2336	Mr	Robin	Perry	Detaille 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. Lewis is #1534
2338	Ms	Farida	Barber	father John Barber was part of FIDS in 1954/55
2339	Mr	David	Colton	Faraday Base (Meteorologist / Physicist, and base Commander) from 1982 to April 1985. BAS HQ 1985, and 1991.
2340	Ms	Lisa	Avis	United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust (UKAHT) for five years and visited Port Lockroy in 2013, I have been the main contact between UKAHT and British Antarctic Oral History Project..
2341	Mr	David	Bray	Second Mate in "John Biscoe" 72 to 75, three voyages South.
2342	Mr	Séamus	Kirwan	Cambridge HQ 1988-1991 Higher Scientific Officer Halley summer 1990-1991 Halley winter 1996 Communications Manager Rothera winter 1997 Communications Manager Rothera summer 1998-1999 Communications
2343	Mr	Tom	Vintner	Winter plant mechanic, Rothera 2005-07 Facilities technician, KEP 2008-09
2344	Mr	Benjamin	Clarke	Electrical Service Team 2017-2019 Halley VI
2345	Mr	Robby	Roulston	Going to Halley this season
1890	Mrs	Unice	Cansfield	Continuing her late husband's membership

# BAS Club News

2346	Mr	Matt	Jobson	1997 – 2001/ 2002-2004 Rothera Summer & winters 2001 - 2002 Halley (Stopped by ice in Weddell) 2002 - Bird Island Winter; 2004 - 2005 Port Lockroy Summer 2005 - 2006 Halley Summer; 2006 - Bird Island Winter 2006 - 2017 Signy Summer; Currently on Signy
2347	Ms	Sharon	Grant	BAS from 1996-2002 - Numerical Marine Ecologist
2348	Mr	David	Clark	Halley Bay Z 1970- Argentine Islands 1971
2349	Mr	Al	Smith	Field GA Rothera 1992-95
2350	Mrs	Lesley	Burren	Worked at BAS HQ in the 1980's.. My maiden name is Holmes. Married to Paul Burren who was at Signy
2351	Mr	David James	King	Sailed onboard the RRS James Clark Ross as Second Officer, under the command of Captain Jerry Burgan Between 2001 to 2007

## **SIGNY REUNION 2018 September 7-9**

The upcoming Reunion at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge marks over 70 years of a British scientific presence on Signy Island. However, we have held very few reunions and the most recent was a decade ago. There has been considerable interest in getting together, after the great success of the previous event but it was only last year that things really got off the ground. Even then, we could not mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and instead we will now meet on the 71<sup>st</sup>, but better late than never.

The reunion will be held at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge over the weekend of Sept 7-9. The College is well provided with accommodation, meeting rooms, dining facilities, well-appointed gardens and both good parking (a rarity in Cambridge) and a very comfortable bar! Whilst peacefully located outside the rather hectic City Centre the College is within walking distance of city sights and there are bus connections.

**We have established a web presence for the Reunion at [www.signy2018.uk](http://www.signy2018.uk) where all the relevant information on the event can be found.**

Bill Block is working with BAS Archives to source station memorabilia, films and information on winter and summer base members and also encouraging attendees to bring their own personal memorabilia, including midwinter presents, photo prints, slides, movies (indeed all things “gripping”) to the party. We are interested in your stories (epic tales!), which Bob Burton (yes, still of this parish) will edit into a Signy Reunion Magazine.

Many Signy Fids from far and wide (New Zealand, Australia, North America and Europe), have already registered online since the site went live, but we would love to see even more of you at what should be a great get-together.

**So, get online, or contact Cynan Ellis-Evans if digital communication is not for you, to register for the Reunion. It helps us a lot if you register early rather than leaving it until the last minute.**

**Looking forward to getting together with you all in September.**

**Cynan Ellis-Evans ([cynan.toft@gmail.com](mailto:cynan.toft@gmail.com)) or 65 High Street, Toft, CB23 2RL.**

**Bill Block ([block.bill@gmail.com](mailto:block.bill@gmail.com))**

**Bob Burton ([rwburton@ntlworld.com](mailto:rwburton@ntlworld.com))**

# BAS Club News

## Memorial Orchard Update

By John Fry and Paul Ward.

Spring means fruit tree blossom and the orchard is showing signs of life with blossom on many of the trees and the colour from last of the daffodils planted in the orchard slowly fading away.

In January, Paul Ward, a local BAS club member, who has taken over the tree pruning and maintenance of the orchard, organised a traditional wassail with attendance from BAS employees. The apple wassail is a traditional form of wassailing practiced in the cider orchards of southern England during the winter and takes place on twelfth night with cider being drunk and poured over the tree's roots and slices of bread or toast hung from the tree's branches.



Apple juice was the preferred drink at BAS but at least toast was hung from the trees!



*Stand fast root, bear well top  
Pray the God send us a howling good crop.  
Every twig, apples big.  
Every bough, apples now.  
— 19th century Sussex, Surrey Wassailing song*

*BAS employees dance round a tree with Wassailing sticks – photo Paul Ward*

*Traditionally bread was hung from branches to wish for a good apple harvest - as seen at BAS! – photo Paul Ward*

Additional pruning of some of the fruit trees has been undertaken with a number re-staked to reduce wind movement. Paul has added a plum tree to replace a dying fruit tree and we will review the state of some of the smaller trees during the year.

Visitors will notice the hedge pruning around the orchard with the rose hedge now a more manageable height.

The sundial has been cleaned and re-lacquered by Tony Wincott who has also organised new signs directing visitors to the orchard.

We await this season's apple crop with interest in view of the excellent crop last year and hope that we have encouraged BAS employees to take a greater interest in the orchard both as a source of summer produce and an outdoor lunch venue.



# BAS Club News

**43rd BAS CLUB AGM AND REUNION**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Churchill College Cambridge**

**By Ellen Bazeley-White and Dick Harbour**

Thank you to all those members that have already placed bookings to attend the reunion weekend. The weekend is proving popular but all types of accommodation are still available and you still have time to secure places for the dinner and visits, places are limited though, so please place any further bookings as soon as you can.



The booking form is available digitally via the AGM 2018 web page, it would help if you could email this to both Ellen and Richard. <http://basclub.org/members/agm-2018-churchill-college-cambridge/>

This web page also has the Business Notice of the AGM and will be updated to feature the information in this article, maps etc.

If you posted a booking form but did not provide an email address please do email us now, then we can easily contact you nearer the time if we need to let you know any further information.

With so many of you signing up for both the daytime visits, we have decided to start half an hour earlier than previously publicised. This means BAS Club members will exclusively be able to enter the museum before it opens to the public.

To aid moving us all around Cambridge as quickly and easily as possible we have also organised a coach. This is the first time the Cambridge reunion has been able to provide transport and this is due to the generous sponsorship by Graham Wright's firm Contact (The quality leader in forklift truck attachments - <https://www.forklift-attachments.co.uk/>). Thank you very much Graham.

BAS staff have been volunteering to come in on a Saturday to tell us about BAS and their work. Unfortunately Jane Francis will not be able to attend on the day due to another engagement. She's very enthusiastic to address us though and will pre-record a presentation for us.

## **Timetable**

09:30-11:30	Polar Museum Visit
12:15	Churchill Dining Hall opens for lunch
13:00-16:30	BAS Visit
17:30-18:30	AGM – JCR Games Room, Churchill College
19:00 for 19:30	Reunion Dinner at Churchill College Dining Room

## **Coach Info**

If needed the coach can make multiple trips. Priority will be given to those staying at Churchill College and/or attending the dinner.

Approx. timings

09:00	Coach leaves Churchill College to go to SPRI
11:30	Coach returns to Churchill College
13:00	Coach leaves Churchill College to head to BAS
16:30	Coach returns to Churchill College

## **Churchill College**

Churchill College, University of Cambridge  
Storey's Way  
Cambridge  
CB3 0DS  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1223 336000

Modern en-suite accommodation (including an English breakfast) can still be booked on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

*Prices start at £87 for a single room up to £118 for the newest doubles per room per night.  
Earliest check-in on Friday is 15:00, but you can check in at any time on the Saturday.  
Check in is at The Porter's Lodge.*



# BAS Club News

There is a lot of parking available, if on the Friday you have any difficulty, please check the staff car parks, the road through the campus and the Møller Centre car parks. The Buttery (bar area) is a good place to mingle, the AGM will be held in the JCR Games room nearby. The Dining hall will be serving lunch from 12:15-13:45 and will host the reunion dinner in the evening.

## **AGM 5.30pm**

This will be held in the JCR (Junior Common Room) Games Room 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, including a glass of wine, tea/coffee.

## **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**

## **Polar Museum**

Scott Polar Research Institute  
University of Cambridge  
Lensfield Road  
Cambridge CB2 1ER  
Telephone: +44 (0)1223 336540

A modern museum featuring items from BAS and with an exhibition area and shop. The museum will be exclusively opened early for BAS Club members (that have signed up). The museum does not open on Sundays.

At the entrance of the Institute is the Husky Dog Statue that used to be outside the BAS building, also outside is the UK portion of the Antarctic Monument.

## **British Antarctic Survey**

British Antarctic Survey  
High Cross  
Madingley Road  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB3 0ET  
Telephone: +44 (0)1223 221400

The Aurora Innovation Centre was opened last July and will host our visit. Members will be able to visit the new library, see displays and purchase BAS branded items in a shop. This will be CASH ONLY so please bring sufficient cash funds with you.

Doors open at 13:00, if you wish to arrive earlier you will be able to access the memorial orchard (not into the building), if there is fine weather, this would be a good spot to enjoy a picnic. There are NO catering facilities at BAS at the weekend.



# BAS Club News

**44th BAS CLUB AGM AND REUNION**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019**

**Swallow Falls,  
Snowdonia, North Wales**  
By Tony Wincott and Brian Jones

Well the bad news is that, despite initially agreeing to host the BAS Club again in 2019; Plas y Brenin Mountain Centre have pulled out of the arrangements citing that our event does not fit in with their business plan!

As you will appreciate the Club needs to book Dinner and AGM locations very early to secure suitable venues, due to the numbers involved.

It was very disappointing when PyB pulled the plug!



However the good news is that we have been able to find another suitable venue in the North Wales area and you will see that the rates and availability we have secured are extremely favourable. We now hope that the weather is the same as we enjoyed for the region at the 2014 reunion!

*The Beer Garden*

The Swallow Falls Hotel management are very keen to welcome BAS Club and as such have initially placed all their available accommodation at our disposal. Members are required to **book accommodation early** as it is a first come first served basis and booking is **directly with the venue**.



There are various types of accommodation available from bunkroom style, camping pods, and hostel bunks to twin /double bed en-suites and rooms for 3 or 4 persons. The rates include for a hearty Welsh breakfast too! Why not sort out room shares and save a bundle too! There are also a limited number of bedrooms providing disabled access and facilities.

For accommodation contact the venue on 01690 710796 or email

[swallowfallshotel@btconnect.com](mailto:swallowfallshotel@btconnect.com)

stating as the reference **BAS Club 2019**.

Bookings can be made between 0730 and 2100 UK time.

Daily rates are as follows and **include breakfast**:-

Hotel £60 double/twin

3 persons £70

4 persons £80

YHA bunkhouse £20,

Camping Pods £60 each pod,

Camper van / caravan £25



We have met with the management and they are keen to ensure a great occasion. There will be a couple of real ales on at the bars (yes there are two bars!) And a bar extension is guaranteed!

# BAS Club News



Those folk staying on the Friday Night may wish to take advantage of the special meal deal of “two for a tenner” from a varied menu

*One of the Bars*

The Annual Dinner will be of four courses using local produce and will be £30 per head. More info later in the year when the dinner booking forms are made available. We are expecting a good take up for

this event and as Fids are notorious for making late applications we are asking Club members to contact us with expressions of interest ahead of our issuing the Dinner booking forms. To avoid overcrowding the dining area we have had to restrict places to 120 diners.

Contact Brian Jones on 01690 720346 [briantynlon@hotmail.com](mailto:briantynlon@hotmail.com) or Tony Wincott on 07702 055601 [winkers001@gmail.com](mailto:winkers001@gmail.com) with your requirements. We will then send you a priority issue of information and costs when it becomes available. Remember, Book Early to avoid disappointment.

**Looking forward to hearing from you! Jonesie & Winkers**

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**45th BAS CLUB AGM AND REUNION**  
**Dundee, Scotland**  
**By Julian Paren**

**date to be finalised 2020**

For many years there has been the prospect of a BAS Club Reunion in Dundee with particular focus on Discovery Point with its excellent museum and facilities sitting beside RRS *Discovery*, Captain Scott's first Antarctic vessel, which has been for years a focal point of Dundee - City of Discovery.

Since the idea was first mooted the region around Discovery Point has been a building site with a new railway station, new hotels, expanded hotels and importantly the Dundee V&A with its contemporary architecture rising from the cleared ground. To have gone to Discovery Point in the middle of such an upheaval would not have been to see Dundee at its best.



*(The V&A and its architecture)*

# BAS Club News

In September this year the Dundee V&A opens and many new facilities for visitors will come on stream. We are not sure yet what will be available by 2020 but the frenetic activity of late should have died down.

What we plan for Dundee will ultimately depend on the numbers of BAS Club members and guests who would make the journey. It is many years since a Dundee or even a Scottish Reunion has taken place, so numbers are difficult to judge.

- There is one critical number for the organisers. It is 80.
- If there are less than 80 then the Reunion Dinner can be seated in the Robert Scott Room at Discovery Point.
- If more than 80 we will look elsewhere - to one of the newer hotels or even the V&A itself, or go right back in time and use HMS *Unicorn* - the oldest warship afloat.

**There is no suggestion that numbers will be restricted to 80. It would just be reassuring to know how far either side of this line the actual attendance might be.**

Dundee should need no further promotion from me. It is the HQ of the South Georgia Association, there is a whaling museum nearby in Broughty Castle, and by all accounts the V&A will both be an architectural triumph and home to an incredible collection of material related to Scotland. Discovery Point succeeds in telling the story of RRS *Discovery* very well indeed and the ship tour with guides is a highlight.

Dundee lies on the National Rail Network and it is anticipated that virtually all we do can be done on foot from the station just a few hundred yards from Discovery Point and the V&A. Virgin East Coast fares to Dundee from the south are economical if you book ahead, and the same may still be true in 2020 for the Caledonian Sleeper service to London. For many, you would not have to look forward with dread to a long drive to Scotland.

**So, as one of the organisers of Dundee 2020, could you send me a non-binding nod if you and guests might be coming, to give us help in finally pinning down where we might have the Reunion Dinner.**

**Please send an e-mail to me:- [julian.paren@gmail.com](mailto:julian.paren@gmail.com)**

**or write to Marowan, Munlochy, Ross-shire, IV8 8PF and I will start a tally of "likely numbers".**

**Then I can base the 2020 Reunion with more certainty**

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## FUCHS MEDAL

### GUIDELINES

#### *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.



# BAS Club News

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 28<sup>th</sup> February to be considered for that year.

## *Inscription*

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

For the year 2018 The Fuchs Medal Award Committee will be meeting in July 2018

**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](mailto:phcoslett@yahoo.co.uk)**

## **LAWS PRIZE**

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 each year. The Prize underscores the 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 will meet on 9th May 2018.

## **UPDATE ON THE BRITISH ANTARCTIC ORAL HISTORY PROJECT (BAOHP) April 2018 By Allan Wearden**

We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel of the transcribing of the present interviews and with all this being done by volunteers this is quite an achievement! Volunteers were ably being led by our Chief Transcriber Andy Smith.

We could have completed the whole of series 1 by 2020, having done 79% of those series 1 interviews, generally at a rate of about 20 per year, although the long winter has produced a bit of a spurt with 10 having already been completed this year!

This would still leave the most of series 3 [33 and gifted before 2000] still to be done, which are real mixed bag of quality!

With now having 88 available on the BAS Club website, I am starting to encourage BAS Archives to release more cleared interviews that can be uploaded to the site in the near future. As usual the project is proving useful for those doing research and the compiling of obituaries.

A big thank you to all our volunteers as it wouldn't work without you. I also wish to say a special thank you to Joanna Rae from BAS Archives who is retiring this month, without whom the project would probably have died 10 years ago. It was Jo that reactivated it in 2009, started to get us all involved and created the BAOHP as it stand now!

Any information on the project please contact [allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.wearden@btinternet.com) or 01254 247541 or [andy@zfids.org.uk](mailto:andy@zfids.org.uk)

Some interested clips from recent transcripts:

- Watching the hulk of the *SS Great Britain* leave the Falklands on a barge bound for the UK!
- Ending up making the rigging for Dr David Lewis's *Ice Bird*!

# BAS Club News

- What happened at the start of the Falklands War on *the Bransfield*?
- The loss of a brand new ski-doo at Halley over the ice cliff!
- Giving a local a pint of beer in the crew bar on the *Bransfield* leading to a w/e visit to the largest polo pony breeding ranch in Argentina!

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## MARGUERITE BAY REUNION at Criccieth, North Wales 2nd – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2018

By Jenny Dean and Allan Wearden

We are going international this year with a move to Wales and we have interest from the Falklands, Australia and the States already! In fact, it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first one being held in North Wales, in 1968 at Bethesda, and we may even have a couple of people that attended that event?



We are using the 3\* George IV Hotel in Criccieth on the south coast of the Llyn Peninsula on the edge of Snowdonia.

*George IV Hotel*  
*23-25 High Street*  
*Criccieth*  
*Gwynedd*

*Tel: 01799 522168*

*e-mail:- [georgeiv.criccieth@leisureplex.co.uk](mailto:georgeiv.criccieth@leisureplex.co.uk)*

As long as the majority stay for the full weekend we should have sole use of the hotel.

We are getting excellent value, compared to the last one at the Hydro, with £33 for dinner B&B for the Friday night; £33 for B&B for the Saturday night and £31 for the 4 course Saturday evening gala dinner

As usual the menu choices will be sent by Jenny, who will also be sending out the booking forms in June/July -- earlier this year because of the new venue.

The hotel is a very short walk from the railway station with trains following a very picturesque trip along the Cambrian line from Shrewsbury.

There are 18 single rooms with a £10 supplement for the full weekend. This is a boost from previous years. Unfortunately there are no designated disabled rooms but mention, at the time of booking, if you need step free access. Sadly no dogs are allowed except for guide dogs.

Adrian Apps has offered to lead the usual walk on the Saturday and Al will take a party to the brewery tap of the Purple Moose brewery for lunch in Porthmadog which is also the home of the world famous Ffestinlog railway.

The film show will be pictures from various eras of the last 50+ years, so bring some along! As the hotel doesn't have a screen or projector, if anyone could bring one along please let Al know?

We hope to have real ale provided by the Purple Moose brewery and we could have the odd surprise over the weekend.

As usual we will have the usual auctions for the BAS Club Benevolent Fund.

Jenny will be sending out the booking forms earlier this year, but if anyone wishes to beat the rush mention [MBR 2018] 01766 522168 [georgeiv.criccieth@leisureplex.co.uk](mailto:georgeiv.criccieth@leisureplex.co.uk) at the time of booking. If you wish to extend your stay either side of the Friday/Saturday then mention it when booking for prices.

As the hotel will not take single bookings for a twin room, please get in touch with Al and he will try buddy you up for the weekend.

If you need help with travel please get in touch as we may be able to help?

**If anyone wishes to be added or removed from the database please contact Jenny at [jenny.dean@cantab.net](mailto:jenny.dean@cantab.net) or any added info from [allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.wearden@btinternet.com) Tel 01254 247541**

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.



## Andy Smith Halley Bay 1971

[www.zfids.org.uk](http://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*



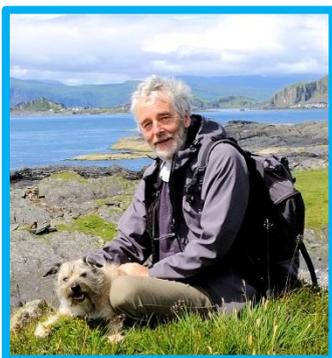
## Peter Noble Halley Bay 1967 and 1968

[www.peternobletalks.co.uk](http://www.peternobletalks.co.uk)

is a pot-pourri 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*

# Members Websites



**James Fenton**

**Signy 1976**

[www.james-hc-fenton.eu](http://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](http://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*

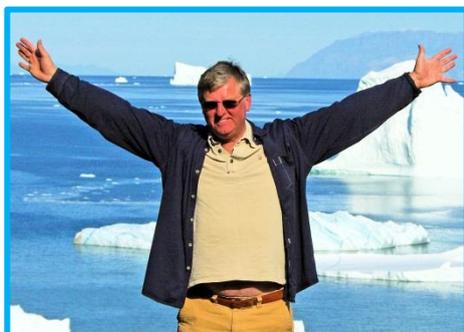
Topics revealed by visiting the [Index of Articles by Subject](#) include: Inuit culture and traditions, health and behavior; scientific research; exploration, adventure and history; film, book and product reviews; tips, poetry and recipes. Many of the over 300 contributors have been FIDS/BAS Doggy Men. 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](mailto:mail@thefanhitch.org) or [qimmiq@snet.net](mailto:qimmiq@snet.net)



**Ashley Perrin**

**Boating Officer KEP and Rothera**

[www.antarcticicepilot.com](http://www.antarcticicepilot.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.



**Paul Ward**

**Signy 1985-86**

[www.coolantarctica.com](http://www.coolantarctica.com) with pictures, information, history, travel, contacts. It is and will always be a work in progress. 17 years ago when I started it, I thought I would be "finished" after 3-4 years of spare time work.. About a year ago I started a section I called the "Antarcticans database project"

<http://www.coolantarctica.com/Community/Antarcticans-database-project.php> after I was sent pictures and stories from other ex FIDs and OAEs (the American version of a Fid) and started to ask for

more. So if you get those slides out from the back of the cupboard, loft etc. and send them (preferably electronically as computer files), I'll put them up for the world to see and read.

Also if you have anything FID or Antarctic related to sell, I've started up the "Emporium of Antarctic Delights" <http://www.coolantarctica.com/Community/emporium-of-antarctic-delights.php> which is a bit sparse at the moment, but will hopefully get bigger.

## BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY NEWS

### JANE FRANCIS – CHANCELLOR

BAS Director Prof Dame Jane Francis has been appointed as the new Chancellor of the University of Leeds, where she enjoyed a 22-year career.

As Chancellor, Jane will act as an honorary, unpaid figurehead and advocate for the University, presiding over degree ceremonies, conferring degrees, chairing meetings of the University Court and support profile-raising events. She succeeds Melvyn Bragg who stepped down this year. Many congratulations!



### ONWARDS AND UPWARDS IN 2018

#### From Professor Dame Jane Francis

2018 promises to be an exciting year, with RRS *Sir David Attenborough* finally being launched into the water and sent off for sea trials in the Arctic.

- Construction of the wharf at Rothera will begin, starting the process of modernisation that will change the face of the station for the future.
- Bird Island will have a new building by the end of this season, we will be planning for a new aircraft, and we will be waiting for nature to decide the fate of the Brunt Ice Shelf.
- The first Official Development Assistance (ODA) cruise will set off to Tristan da Cunha in March, and, if the ice allows, scientists on RRS *James Clark Ross* will be able to make new discoveries on the seabed exposed under the Larsen C iceberg.
- The Thwaites Glacier project with NSF will also be ready to begin. Many BAS staff will also be presenting their science at the major joint Arctic-Antarctic science meeting in Davos, Switzerland in June.

This year there will be a strong focus for scientists on the next NERC Research Centre Assessment (RCE), the submission deadline now having been set for early 2020. There are still details to be worked out but now is the time to focus on getting high-quality papers published before the end of 2019 and gathering evidence about impact.

It will be a busy but exciting year, started with the excellent news that Phil Trathan has been honoured with an OBE for his work on Southern Ocean science and conservation. Congratulations to Phil.

### ALL CHANGE IN APRIL

#### From Professor Dame Jane Francis

The beginning of April is a time of change in two ways. Firstly, organisation of research will change with the launch of UKRI (UK Research and Innovation), which brings together the seven Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England. This new structure will encourage cross-disciplinary research and innovation to promote the UK as a global leader in research, funded with a budget of more than £6 billion.

BAS will remain within NERC but all BAS staff will transfer to become employees of UKRI, and assets such as aircraft, ships and vehicles will also transfer.

The structures within NERC in this new world are still being developed but in BAS our mission in the polar regions will remain the same, while also taking advantage of the new multidisciplinary programmes.

Secondly, the current contract for catering in the Icebreaker restaurant has come to an end. We owe so much to Russ and his team for their dedication over the past few years.

The food has been special, the menu wonderfully varied, and the service so friendly. They also rose to the challenge of feeding the growing numbers of external customers of the new conference facilities with exceptional feasts that truly impressed visitors.

A heartfelt thanks from us all to Russ and his team.

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS UPDATES

by **Tim Stockings**

Jan-Feb 2018

This season has continued at a frenetic pace after a turbulent start – busy seems to be the new norm. Across every area we've been pushed hard. Preparing for the future has added to the pressure, as demand from project work increases. We are trying to moderate the load, including finding better ways of working but I appreciate that looks a little like 'jam tomorrow'. I'm confident that we will get there, so ask that you bear with us as we transition to our new operating dynamic (see article below).

There have been some significant successes along the way. Bird Island construction project has started. Halley was successfully re-commissioned and winterised. KEP hosted a range of visitors during a busy fishing season. Signy was dug out from the ice and opened on time. Ships and aircraft have been hard at work, overcoming the vagaries of the weather and serviceability. Rothera has enabled a deep field season and it will never be the same again – redevelopment starts next season. RRS SDA is on track to launch this year.

With so much going on it's easy to lose sight of our overriding aim of safe operations. We are building systems that will support this goal but they are no good without people. So please take a few minutes to think and reflect when you can. It needs all of us working together to deliver BAS science and logistics safely.

## BAS STAFF AWARDED POLAR MEDALS

By **Professor Jane Francis**

Many congratulations to three BAS staff who have been awarded the Polar Medal in the New Year's Honours List, and one who has been awarded a prestigious Second Clasp. The announcement was made in the London Gazette.



**Mark Beasley**

Captain Mark Beasley, Antarctic Pilot and Training Captain, receives the Polar Medal in recognition of his work flying specialist aircraft in support of polar science in Antarctica



**Kevin Newsham**

Polar Soil Biologist Dr Kevin Newsham joined BAS in 1997 and specialises in soil fungi and nutrient cycling. His Polar Medal is awarded for his work in the Polar Regions which draws on 25 years of research in soil and plant ecology. Kevin studies the influence of environmental change on soil microbes and plants in Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems



**James Wake**

James Wake has worked at BAS since 2007 and his roles have included Field Guide Station Leader and Traverse Leader for the iSTAR tractor traverse. His Polar Medal is awarded for his management of complex operational challenges in Antarctica.



**Nick Cox**

Nick Cox received a Second Clasp to his Polar Medal. Nick has worked at BAS for over 40 years and was awarded his first Polar Medal in 1993. The second clasp highlights his continued service developing an international research community at the UK's Arctic Ny-Ålesund Research Station, where he has worked as Station Leader since it was established in 1991

## BBC HORIZON AWARD SHORTLIST

By: Athena Dinar

BBC Horizon documentary 'Antarctica – Ice Station Rescue', which followed the Halley VI relocation, was nominated for 'best documentary programme' in the prestigious 2018 Broadcast Television Awards in February.

*Filming at Halley*

The programme didn't win but Blue Planet II, which featured footage from Bird Island and interviews with BAS Marine Ecologist Lucy Quinn, did scoop the top prize for 'best documentary series'.

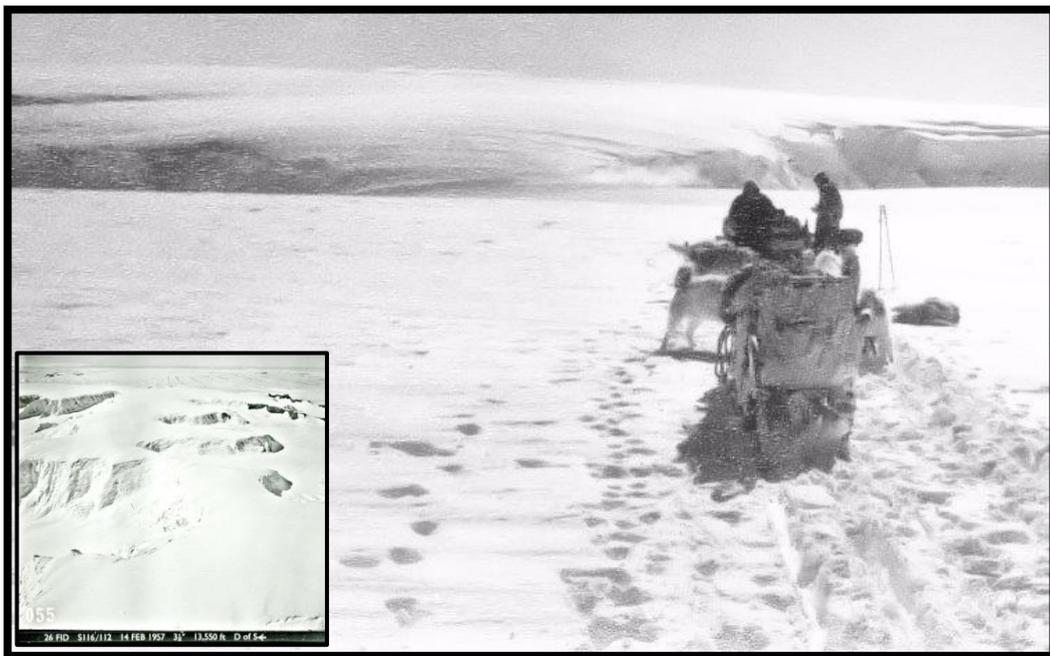


## PICTURES FROM BAS ARCHIVES #67

by Jo Rae

Next season (2018/19), a private expedition is attempting the first manhaul traverse of the narrow plateaux of the Antarctic Peninsula, inspired by the account given by Wally Herbert of the FIDS survey trip from Hope Bay to Cape Reclus by dog-sledge in October-November 1957.

Sea & Ice Expeditions are particularly keen to see the spectacular Catwalk. This is a narrow pass at an altitude of approximately 1,400m between Detroit Plateau and Herbert Plateau. Phil Wickens, who was a Field Guide with BAS from 1997-2000, is providing field and logistics expertise for the expedition.



*The Catwalk crossed by Hope Bay team in Nov 1957 INSET:- FIDASE oblique air photograph 1957 – BAS Archives*

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCIENCE – SEPT 2017

by Rachel Cavanagh

### A synergistic approach for evaluating climate model output for ecological applications

Ecologists are referring more frequently to global climate models, including Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCCclass) models, in an attempt to understand how climate change affects ecosystems, but drawing ecologically-meaningful conclusions from them can be difficult.

For instance, in relation to the Southern Ocean, global climate models generally do not sufficiently accurately represent ecologically-important features such as the marginal ice zone – the transition area between open ocean and sea ice – since it comprises a complex variety of different types of sea ice and is relatively small. However, it is vitally important as a habitat and a zone of high biological productivity.

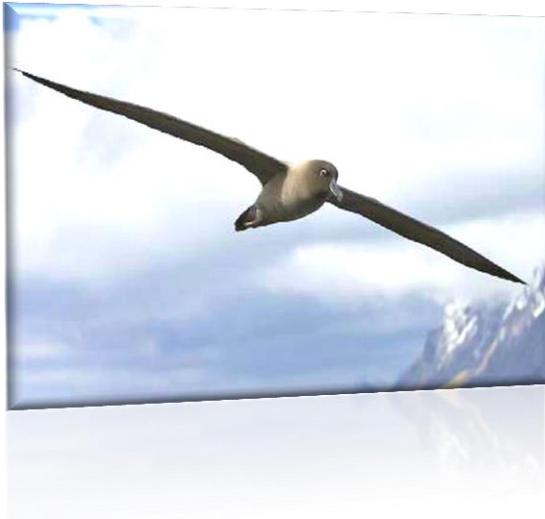
Using Southern Ocean sea ice as an example, the authors, who comprise ecologists, biogeochemists, climate modellers and fishery scientists, embarked on a uniquely joint approach to explore how best to use climate model data for better ecological insights. Their analysis resulted in an improvement to the precision of projected future sea-ice distributions by approximately thirty percent.

*Improving sea ice projections*



## THE LIGHT-MANTLED ALBATROSS CENSUS 2017

by Derren Fox



The light-mantled (sooty) albatross is the least studied of our four regularly-breeding species of albatross here on Bird Island, and listed as 'near threatened' by the IUCN. Nesting on the island's steeper cliffs in small groups or individually, rather than in dense colonies like the mollymawks, their haunting sky-calling cries and synchronised display flights are a sound and sight to behold.

Light-mantled albatrosses are biennial breeders, the young returning to the island to breed between eight and 15 years of age, and successfully fledging a chick at most once every two years.

This year was taken as an opportunity to complete a whole-island census of the species in an effort to get a better handle on the population here. The species is monitored annually in an area from Colony H along the south coast to Mountain

Cwm, covering about one quarter of the suitable nesting habitat on the island. The only previous whole-island count was carried out in the 1980s with around 200 pairs, so we were very interested to see how the birds have fared since then.

The survey was carried out over a week in mid-November, with help from several staff members on station. This is a difficult species to survey, occupying steep-sided cliffs, most of which are inaccessible, and it is hard to find good vantage points. We count AONs (Apparently Occupied Nests), assuming that any bird on a well-built nest in a suitable location that seems to be incubating an egg is indeed doing so.

In total we found 167 AONs over the survey, most of them along the southern coasts, the north being very steep rocky cliffs without suitable nesting areas. We hope to repeat the survey in future years to better enable us to monitor the population trend as it is very difficult to draw any conclusions from surveys carried out in single years, decades apart. This is, however, a good start.

## PLANT AND SOIL SUCCESSION ON SG

By Elise Biersma

As part of an on going NERCCONICYT award, this season an international group of researchers spent two months conducting fieldwork at Husvik, South Georgia, on successions of plants, microbes and soils in a receding glacier foreland.

The foreland, previously studied by former BAS botanist Ron Lewis-Smith in the 1980s and '90s, consists of a well-defined set of moraines spanning nearly a century. By revisiting the site we hoped to gain invaluable insights into the way in which polar terrestrial ecosystems develop over time.

As well as repeating observations made on the plant community by Ron, we included a strong biogeochemical angle, aiming to quantify and scale changes and rates in both biological and geochemical succession, including trace gas fluxes between soils and atmosphere after glacial retreat.

# ANTARCTIC NEWS

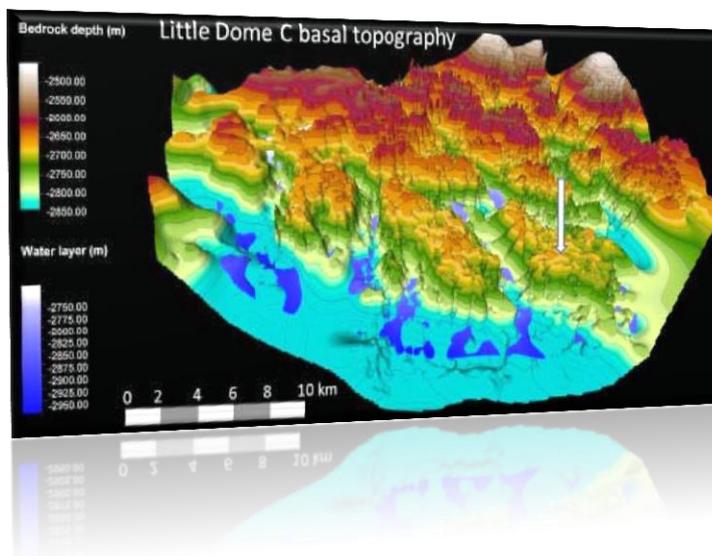
We had a young (three postdocs, a PhD student and a MSc student) and productive field team, consisting of staff at institutes across Europe and South America. Living amongst a fur seal colony was also an experience never to forget! Thanks to all involved.



*The researches spent two months at Husvik South Georgia*

## THE SEARCH FOR THE OLDEST ICE

by Rob Mulvaney



In Nov/Dec 2017, Robert Mulvaney and Julius Rix joined colleagues from Italy and France at a field site about 40km from Concordia Station in East Antarctica. Our goal was to find a site for a European project (Beyond EPICA – Oldest Ice) that hopes to drill a deep ice core to obtain the longest continuous record of greenhouse gases and climate.

*An area 18 x 12 km was scanned using an over snow radar system*

Glaciological models have indicated that the area known as Little Dome C might have ice as old as 1.5 million years about 60m above the bedrock substantially older than the 800,000 years recovered at the original EPICA site at Dome C. The challenge for this season was to find the site for the future drilling infrastructure.

*The EPICA site at Dome C*



Using the BAS DELORES over-snow radar system, over 2,000km of close-spaced, crisscrossing radar lines over an area 18x12km allowed us to build a picture of the basal topography in the Little Dome C area. The ice-sheet bed varies between 2,500-2,850m depth in the ice, and is a flat plateau incised with 300m deep valleys, with evidence that the deepest valleys may have melting at the bottom.

A site was chosen for future deep drilling on a small plateau with an ice depth of 2,700m, and the team drilled the first pilot borehole in readiness for further work next season.

## BAS ICE DRILL BREAKS RECORD

By Rob Mulvaney

The BAS RAID (Rapid Access Isotope Drill) was designed to penetrate ice rapidly and, rather than recovering an ice core, it recovers ice chips which can be used to measure water isotopes and build a climate record. The drill uses an auger inside a barrel to drill ice, and when returned to the surface after each run of about 1.3m, the auger is rotated backwards to empty the barrel of ice chips which can then be sampled for later analysis. During the recent field work at Little Dome C with Italian and French colleagues, Julius Rix and

# ANTARCTIC NEWS

Robert Mulvaney drilled to 461m with the RAID. This is a new record for a mechanical ice drill in a dry borehole – the previous record was held by the US Polar Ice Core Office with a 353m deep dry borehole at South Pole in 1984.

Sadly, at the depth of 461m, the RAID auger became stuck, and could not be freed. Nevertheless, drilling to this depth samples ice back about 19,000 years (into the last glacial period), and left a borehole in which the ice temperature can be measured with sufficient precision to estimate local geothermal heat flow. These results will help determine if the glaciological ice-sheet models are credible in predicting ice as old as 1.5 million years near the bed at this location. With the summer season underway at Bird Island, life is blooming in abundance here on our little rock.



## FOSSIL BLUFF RENOVATION COMPLETE

By Tim Jackson

Over the last two seasons, Rothera Estates Team has been working with Archives and the Environment Office to deliver conservation works to Fossil Bluff. The aim of the project was to renovate tired areas of the main building (Bluebell Cottage) in the most sympathetic way possible, to help improve staff welfare and maintain its original charm.



The hut isn't an Antarctic heritage site, but it does have historical value. It was built in 1961. Except for efforts to upkeep the painted exterior, little work has been done to the hut in recent years. Consequently, the roofs had holes, looked tired, and were in desperate need of restoration. Inside, the paint was flaking and the vinyl floor was worn.

This season the interior received a full overhaul with new ceiling, paint job and flooring. The exterior was over-clad in flat tin sheet to protect the facade and prevent flaking paint blowing into the Silent Sound. Last season the main roof was recoated with bitumen and the north and south annex were fully refurbished. These works should keep the Bluff in good stead for several years to come, and will once again make this delightful and charming hut a desirable place to work and live. Many thanks to everyone involved.

## AIM UPDATE: ROTHERA MASTERPLAN

By David Seaton

The Rothera Masterplan, which sets out a vision and high-level plan of what we aim to achieve through the modernisation of Rothera, has been signed off by the Rothera and Islands Board. Final go-ahead has been given to sign the contract for construction of the new wharf – a hugely complex piece of engineering – which will begin in November 2018. The Masterplan was shared with BAS staff during engagement events in February.

Our partners Ramboll and BAM will now embark on the feasibility stage, which will run until June 2018 and provide different options for how to achieve our aims. Further opportunities for staff to hear about plans and contribute ideas will take place during the spring.

The modernised Rothera will continue to support the UK's ambition to be recognised internationally for scientific and operational excellence. It will be flexible in its design so that new and emerging technologies can be easily integrated. The quality of living and working spaces will be improved; key goals include the reduction in longer-term resource costs and in our carbon footprint.

# ANTARCTIC NEWS

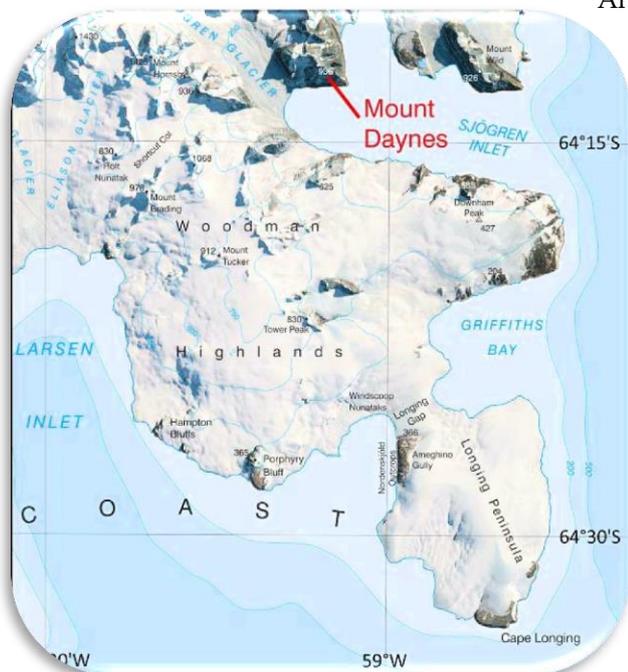
Meanwhile, work is underway to ensure that all the heavy construction kit needed for the new wharf – including two 300 tonne cranes – will arrive at Rothera ready to begin work in the 2018/19 season. The first task will be to dismantle the existing wharf and move all Rothera small boating facilities to an alternative location on the Point, as it will not be possible to use the main wharf until 18 months later when the new one is complete.



*Construction of the new Rothera Wharf begins November 2018*

## PLACE-NAME OF THE MONTH – #40

By Adrian Fox



Anyone who has done field work in Antarctica with BAS is likely to have slept in a pyramid tent or towed a heavily-laden Nansen sledge.

Since 1988 these trusted items of equipment have been made for BAS by Snowsled Ltd.

Mount Daynes is a locally prominent peak rising to 936m at the head of Sjögren Inlet, NE Antarctic Peninsula.

It's named for Roger Daynes (b.1942), meteorologist and BC at Halley 1971-73, and then co-founder, owner and Director of Snowsled Ltd until his retirement in 2016.

Other nearby names associated with pioneers of polar travel include Eliason Glacier (Eliason motor sledge), Weasel Hill and Pyke Glacier (Weasel tracked vehicle and its inventor), Mount Tucker (Tucker Sno-cat).

For a web-map showing locations and details for names and information about the UK Antarctic Place-names Committee, please visit <https://apc.antarctica.ac.uk>.

## ANTARCTIC HERITAGE TRUST NEWS

### StoningtonDiaries

January 2018



We are currently running the [#StoningtonDiaries campaign](#) to promote our conservation work on Stonington Island.

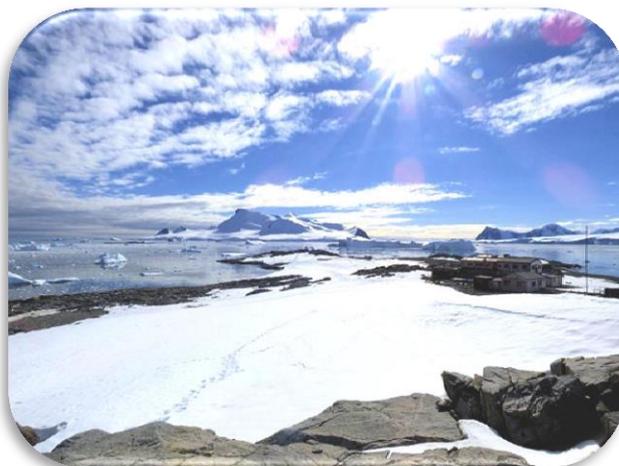
Every day we are posting an update from our conservation team on Stonington Island (pictured left).

# ANTARCTIC NEWS

We are also posting a 'live' historical entry from the team who were based on Stonington Island in 1948 (pictured left)



Every month we are selecting our favourite Antarctic photo and



publishing it on our e-bulletin. This month's image was sent to us by our conservation team on Stonington Island. The photo is of the former FIDs base (Base E) which our conservation team are currently surveying.

## March 2018

We are delighted to announce that both the Port Lockroy team as well as the Stonington Island conservation team have safely left the Antarctic peninsula wrapping up what has been another successful season. The Port Lockroy team are currently enjoying some well earned holiday travelling around South America whilst the Stonington team are currently in the Falkland Islands on route back to the UK. As the season in Antarctica comes to a close, here in the Cambridge office we are already beginning preparations for the 2018/19 season!

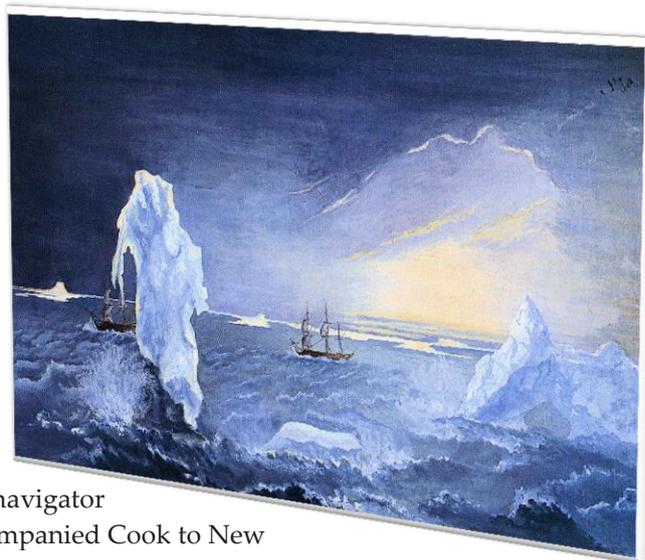
If you want a recap of what went on during this past season you can do so by reading the [Port Lockroy blogs](#) or [#StoningtonDiaries](#).

## BRITISH LIBRARY EXHIBITION Fri 27 Apr – Tue 28 Aug 2018

### James Cook: The Voyages

"To mark 250 years since Captain James Cook's ship *Endeavour* set sail from Plymouth, this major exhibition will tell the story of Cook's three great voyages through original documents, many of which were produced by the artists, scientists and seamen on board the ship. From Cook's journal detailing the first crossing of the Antarctic Circle to handwritten log books, stunning artwork and intricate maps, chart the voyages, which spanned more than a decade, and explore the experiences of people on the ship and in the places visited.

Drawings by the Polynesian high priest and navigator Tupaia, who joined the first voyage at Tahiti and accompanied Cook to New Zealand and Australia, will be going on public display for the first time together, alongside works by expedition artists Sydney Parkinson, John Webber and William Hodges. Tupaia's paintings include a series of depictions of Tahitian society and culture, as well as drawings from New Zealand and Australia.



Our collection of original maps, artworks and journals from the voyages, alongside rare printed books and newly commissioned videos, seek to shed new light on the encounters that completed the outline of the known world and formed the starting point for two centuries of globalisation." For further details visit the [British Library website](#).

# Snippets and Letters

## THE FIDs STORY – a poem

C. JIM EXLEY 1997

*(Dedicated to Derek Searle who told me the story)*

This is the story the sledger told,  
As the huts' beams cracked with the polar cold,  
Whilst he sat on the Esse\* to warm his back,  
And the new ice bound up on the freezing pack.

'I went, last Tuesday, to find a seal,  
The pile looks low, or so I feel,  
Besides, the team's got slack on the span,  
So to give them a run was part of my plan'.

'We searched the ice beyond the big 'berg', the sledger said,  
'You know, it must be a half mile wide  
It slopes right down on the other side.

The day was cold, the cloud was low,  
Wise seals had a look, and then stayed below.  
We went to Dog's Leg, but sad to tell  
Of hide nor flipper, we hadn't a smell!

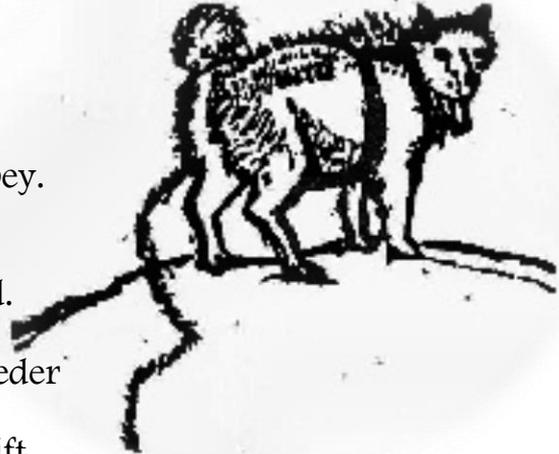
The cloud grew lower, it turned to fog,  
The team went slower, tails down on each dog,  
I cursed, I swore, I swung my whip  
When dogs see nothing they'd rather kip.

I started to worry, so turned on back,  
Cut straight to Base, didn't follow my track.  
I suppose we'd covered near half the way  
When my leader stopped dead, just wouldn't obey.

Shout as I might, and curse – and I could-  
He stood in the snow, as though carved in wood.  
I cursed and I swore at my stupid dim leader,  
Being made look a fool by that stubborn old bleeder

In the end I ski-ed forward, he still wouldn't shift,  
He just whined and lay down in the wind and the drift.  
This had me quite puzzled – the dog might be dim-  
But I'd ne'er had a strike from a dog, like Kim!

This all seemed so strange, tho' I couldn't tell why.  
That I went on ahead, when I'd made the dogs lie.  
They were well out of sight when I screeched to a stop,  
For there, just in front, was a flamin' great drop.



# Snippets and Letters

It gave a new meaning to Kipling's 'IF',  
To be suddenly faced with that flamin' great cliff,  
Not what you'd expect on the sea ice, so flat-  
It made me consider, a moment, did that!

In the whiteout we'd gone up the iceberg's north slope,  
If Kim had kept going, we'd not got a hope.  
I drove back to Base with considerable care  
How had Kim, in the whiteout, known danger was there?

**'SORRY KIM Not so dim!'**

Footnote:- \*Esse -- the anthracite stove, which was a standard fitting in the early Base Huts. The insulated top was the warmest place, on a cold night

*Ed's Note: the above was sent in by Malcolm Evans after a talk following Jim Exley's obituary which has produced a copy of the above poem.*

*From Dog Holden:*

*Whilst in South America, Buenos Aires, I noticed the new local BAS offices not yet branded by NERC!!! ---Not sure how many staff are working there at the moment!!*

*Dog was visiting Kenn Back, in Uruguay, and has sent back the following:*

*To Fellow Fids -BAS Club Members  
Kenn's Mates*

*You all were good enough to send*

*messages to Kenn via me. BAS Club Member Liz Gordon and I delivered them to him on 10 Feb., crossing by ferry from Buenos Aires to Colonia, Uruguay and then driving north to his home in Carmelo close to the Rio La Plata coast.*

*Kenn is doing OK, considering the debilitating stroke he suffered some years ago. He was in good spirits although life is not easy for him, given his infirmity and the rather rudimentary facilities in the backwater he lives in.*

*An Argentinian friend of mine (ex-Base Belgrano 1978), who visited Kenn last year, thought he looked better now than he had done at that time, when he saw the photos taken during our visit.*



# Snippets and Letters

*It would not be breaking confidences to say that Kenn lives very modestly, one might say, in straitened circumstances, and day to day expenses are not easy for him to meet, let alone the much-needed repairs/mods to his house.*

*Having said that I don't think any of us can imagine Kenn living for long in a mainstream, conventional way.*

*It is important to note that he does not complain about any of this, they are my and Liz's observations.*

*Ken's house rear view*

*Various reports have circulated about him selling his polar books to provide working capital.*

*He has not done this, primarily because there is no market for such things in Uruguay.*



*Ken's fuel supply*

*Kenn does in fact have a fantastic non-polar book collection as well and they line virtually every wall in his house.*

*They are all individually bound in poly bags to stop the cockroaches eating them!*

*I discussed repatriating some of this collection and arranging sale perhaps and this idea will be taken forward between*

*us.*

*He is very lucky to have a kind neighbour, Susan, a Uruguayan lady, who visits him and helps in many ways, not least with shopping. Kenn stressed how unusual this type of voluntary social help is in Uruguay and is so grateful for it. We had a very good chat with much reminiscing, as you may imagine. He was very appreciative of all your messages/photos etc. so it was well worth doing, thanks.*

*Since many of you have asked, I checked on how we should best communicate with him. He emphatically said that the "old-fashioned" letter post was best.*

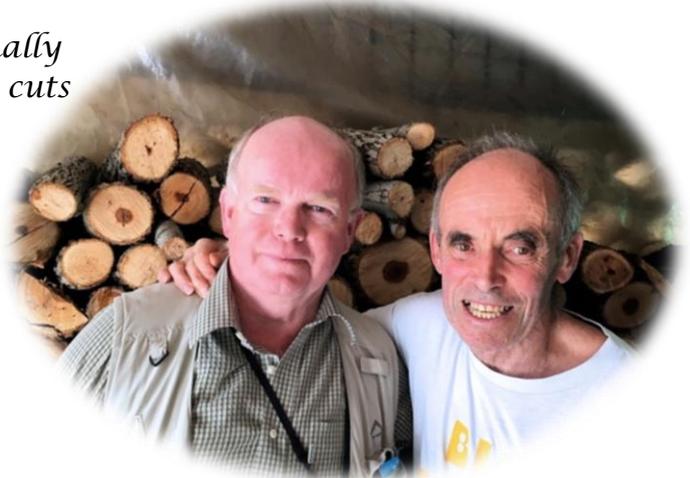
*He does not have an email address himself, and although the lady mentioned above, Susan, can and does receive them for him, he said that she was just about*

# Snippets and Letters

*overloaded with such traffic so that should preferably only used for emergency or at least urgent purposes.*

*Again, he does have a phone but is normally so slow to get to it that the answerphone cuts in and he has had to battle to get to it in vain!*

*Dog and Kenn*



*All photos Dog Holden*

**ED's note:- any club member wishing to correspond with Kenn please contact Dog Holden at email: [dog@harter.org.uk](mailto:dog@harter.org.uk)**

## A FID'S MUSEUM

Last December at a UKAHT event at the new Post Office Museum in London I got talking to another old Fid, Jermyn Thoday, who had recently received back a decorated penguin egg which he had done for the late Dave Biggadyke, during their winter together, and he would like to display it somewhere and as things stand there is nowhere to do so, which is very true! Which got me thinking, while I browsed the museum later in the evening, seeing some of their exhibits, and then watching some old PO films [like the Night mail], on a loop as to why there isn't a Fids museum somewhere in the country, I know there is room in the Falklands museum but not that many of us get to see that!

There is certainly lots of stuff to stock a museum, with all the photos and films taken over the years, which you could have on a loop as you could with many of the oral history interviews. Lots of stuff does turn up as old Fids pass away, as I think we are great hoarders! I do know they were trying to find a new home for a kayak built at Horseshoe Island in the 50's, it seems the Biscoe's launch also needs a new home and I have even heard that the fuselage of an plane brought back from Deception is in a barn in the south of England, but guess that is rather taking it too far!?

I did mention the idea to Jane Francis later in the evening. Certainly BAS itself wouldn't be a good location as rather out of the way, even if they were interested. Although BAS archives cover a lot of history it wouldn't have that much interest to the general public, and lots of things they don't take. SPRI is a good location but they don't have the room and I'm not sure if they would be interested. So I think it would have to be a room or a part of a current museum, as then there would be no problem with planning permission, so any ideas or is it a pipe dream!?

To myself [allan.wearden@btinternet.com](mailto:allan.wearden@btinternet.com) or 01254 247541.

# Snippets and Letters

## "Self Description Questionnaire"

From John Edwards

Here's a little puzzle / request that you may be able to solve or, if not, maybe a reader of the next Magazine might be able to.

Going through some old Fid papers I came across my answers (made on base on 1st Feb 1969) to a 6 page questionnaire which I have entitled "Self Description Questionnaire"

There are other sets of True/False answers I made on 8th Jan 1968 and on 17th Nov 1969, so I seem to have answered this questionnaire 3 times!!

Pages 1 & 2 seem to have had 24 statements each, page 3 18, page 4 11, page 5 23 and page 6 18 questions - a total of 118 statements / questions.

Attached to these True or False answers is another sheet headed "Changes in my personality after wintering" - from psychological questionnaire!

The only thing is I don't have the questions - I wonder if you or anyone else has and, if so, I'd be interested to know what they were so I can see how I responded.

I seem to remember it was something BAS used to sort out unsuitable, possibly schizophrenic, types and that one of the statements you had to say True or False to was "I think I'm being followed"

I see from page 1 that "wintering affected me" in that:-

- I now wear more eye-catching clothes
- I no longer keep my feelings to myself
- I am now slower in making decisions, taking time to weigh up the pro's and con's
- Have become more untidy i.e. I don't have a place for everything and everything in its place (this still applies!!) &
- I now think that first impressions and reactions are usually the right ones in the end.

I really would be interested to know what the bloody questions were that enabled me to come to those conclusions!

**Does anyone have a copy of this and is it worth reprinting?**

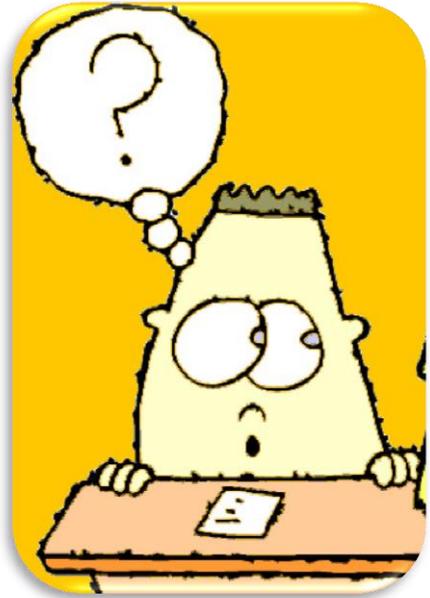
Unfortunately page 3 Question (which I may or may not have answered truthfully) resulted in me concluding "I find it difficult to concentrate recently" & "I'm afraid I am going insane!"

This is not the only other old Fid document I wish I had kept a copy of. I remember there was a *dictionary of Fid slang* that someone had produced which explained the origin and meaning of terms such as 'gash', 'dhabi' 'man' etc.

**Does anyone have a copy of this and is it worth reprinting?**

Cheers

John Edwards



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**Tony Jackson** sent an email with an interesting link to a BBC article <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-42167789> regarding the Hull trawler 'VIOLA' of which a book has been written and was reviewed in Magazine no 72 December 2014

**The Viola: Rusting WWI trawler needs £3.5m to be rescued** - A "significant philanthropist" is needed to fund the rescue of a World War One trawler in the South Atlantic, said the trust set up to save it.

The Viola is rusting on South Georgia 7,750 miles (12,500 km) away from its home port of Hull, East Yorkshire.

The Viola Trust said £3.5m was needed to rescue a vessel that had been on the "frontline of the Great War".

# Features

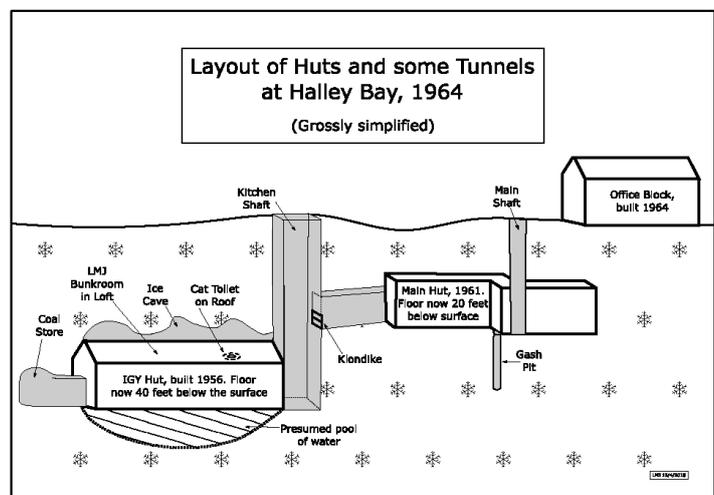
## ROOFTOP EXPIDITION.

Lewis Juckes

When I retired I decided to write up my time at Halley Bay, in case any of my family one day wanted to know more about that time. Since then this project has drifted forward, competing with other interests, so that it took nearly two decades before I reached what seemed to be the end. I had often thought of trying to get it published, and now that I saw the vast size of my manuscript (longer than anything by Dickens) I realised that heavy trimming would be needed to produce a publishable version. I'm now in the middle of that process.

In a way, trimming seemed a pity – not only would some worthwhile tales vanish, but it might be letting down those generous people who have answered my questions over the years, filling in details and giving me their memories. One solution would be the BAS Archives, and so I'll see that a version of the full text is lodged there. The BAS Club Magazine offers a more immediate and less obscure way for me to pass on some of the trimmings to others, so here's a start. This one goes from rooftop to below floor level.

At Halley Bay in 1964 we had three main huts, the oldest being the IGY hut, built in 1956 and with the floor now about 40 feet below the surface. A sloping Dexion ladder and an ice tunnel led up to what we called the Main Hut, dating from 1961 and with the floor only 20 feet down. A ladder in a vertical shaft led to the surface and the newest hut, the "Office Block" that we had erected that autumn. The bunkrooms were in the Main Hut but the manning had now grown and outnumbered the spaces there. I was one of those who had been allocated a place in the loft of the IGY hut, and I slept on a mattress laid out under the slope of the pitched roof.



During the winter of 1964 a drip developed above my bed, which was a surprise. Despite being older, this roof was in far better shape than that of the main hut which notoriously had a flat roof. There seemed only one solution, and that was to get on to the roof and see what was causing the leak. The second-years assured me that in the ice-cave above the roof there was space to get about, and that it had been done from time to time. Coincidentally, when Phil Cotton and I had been looking for some small pieces of Dexion someone had recently suggested searching on the roof.

The most obvious place to get on to the roof seemed to be near the bottom of the Dexion ladder linking the two huts. This was in the middle of the hut, but a closer look showed that the gap between the ice and the eaves was nowhere more than about six inches. Next I looked from the Klondike, and this was the obvious answer.

The Kitchen Shaft was forty feet deep, from the surface down to one of the end doors of the IGY hut. An ice tunnel from the kitchen, in the main hut, led in this direction and opened into the shaft halfway down, with a timber ledge that we called The Klondike. It was often used for hauling goods up and down, and with a drop of nearly twenty feet below it there were timber railings to give a degree of safety. By ducking under these and stepping across an alarming gap, with little other than slippery ice for handholds, one could reach the roof of the IGY hut which was at about the same level. At that point the gap between the roof and the ice above it was enough for someone to go further in a crouch. The light from the bulb beside the Klondike seemed only to penetrate a few feet along the roof, adding an air of mystery to what lay ahead.

Phil Cotton and Mike Turner joined me for what was, in a schoolboyish way, an expedition of our own. We would be exploring places that we had not seen since arriving months ago, and as far as we knew no one else had been up there in that time.

# Features

Torches were prized possessions there, but we had two between us. These showed us that the ice cavern above the roof of the hut had surreal curves with no obvious explanation although they were probably related to which zones in the loft below were heated. In some places we could stand, while in others we had to creep through gaps down to a couple of feet high. The icy vault above us was striking but so, in a very different way, was the rubbish scattered across the sloping roof. At times the warmth from the hut melted a little of the ice above, and the water ran down the sides of the ice-cave to vanish somewhere beneath the hut. Meanwhile, the weight of snow above forced more down so that there was a continuous process.

Any foreign objects in the snow would drop on to the roof as they melted out, and we could see pieces of wood, wire, and other small bits of debris from earlier years. My torch showed a tiny red object embedded in the ice above me, and when I scooped it out I found that it was a little Christmas tree, a table ornament an inch or two high. How on earth had that been lost on the surface? I carefully put it in my pocket so that at Christmas dinner I could have my own distinctive ornament by my place. For the next Christmas I would be in the field and so it would be eighteen months before I next sat down to a Christmas dinner at a table, and when that day did arrive I had long since lost it. Right now, the merry hunt for trophies continued.

My bunkroom was near the far end from the Klondike and so we began to move cautiously along the ridge of the hut. I kept scanning the roof with my torch, looking for any other souvenirs, and then saw what looked like a pile or layer of something well down the slope of the roof. What might it be? Coal? A closer examination ruled that out, but we were unable to identify it until someone suggested that it looked like chicken droppings.

That set us thinking. There had never been any chickens that we knew of, but there had been various cats during the life of the Base. Could that be why we never saw any droppings in the coal bunker, reputed to be Kista's equivalent of a litter tray? The size of the pile looked a reasonable match for an accumulation of several years.

On we went, crawling in places where the ice above us came down close to the roof, and seeing new surprises all the time. A huge metal picket, eight feet long, was still half embedded in the ice above with its exposed point aimed at the roof.

*(Phil Cotton with a picket found in the snow above the IGY hut in 1964  
PHOTO – Lewis Jukes)*

Given another year or so it might have driven right into the hut, above the Survey loft as far as we could judge, but we hacked it out with a strip of fallen Dexion and laid it safely on the roof. We passed a chimney, unsure which one, but with the piping kinked and contorted by the compression driving it all downward.

Clearly much of the meltwater ran down the sides of the ice cave but in places it dripped on to the roof. Where such drips landed on one of the colder zones of the roof, one or two re-froze and built up stumpy pillars of glass-clear ice that could be several feet high. What to call them? The English language doesn't seem to have a word for the upward-pointing equivalent of an icicle, an icy stalagmite in effect. An "icymite", perhaps? Whatever; I was glad that I had my camera and flashgun.

Above my bunkroom we found the source of the drips inside. Some large Dexion structure, probably an abandoned instrument stand of some sort, was emerging from the ice above and one corner was beginning to gouge into the roof. I would need to return with tools to dismantle or saw off parts, to relieve the pressure, and I might need to patch the hole. Meanwhile, for completeness, we continued to the end of the roof and our most exciting find. Embedded in the snow above us were two wooden crates, appearing again several years after someone had let them get drifted over and lost.



# Features



*(Phil Cotton on the roof of the IGY hut, with a crumpled chimney pipe, in 1964. Water-clear "icymite" behind him, on the left. – photo Lewis Juckes)*

The schoolboy aspect of our adventure reached its climax, as if we had found the door to the tuck shop unlocked overnight. What might be in the cases – goodies of some kind? Nutty (local slang for chocolate of any kind), perhaps, or tinned peaches? Using the scrap piece of Dexion we gouged the cases free and down on to the roof. The Dexion was not strong enough to get the lids off but the massive picket did it easily – we wanted first grabs of any goodies – and then the truth was revealed. They contained cartons of Persil washing powder. In our excitement we had not even noticed that they lacked the red painted bands signifying food boxes. Nevertheless, it was something to show off publicly.

Back we went, carrying and pushing the boxes towards the distant patch of light by the Klondike. Near there we suddenly saw a movement, and our torches confirmed it: Kista was padding along the roof towards the patch of mystery material. We allowed her some privacy while she scraped and then squatted in the gloom,

returned to the end of the hut, and jumped back to the Klondike much more nimbly than we had done. A coincidence, but a useful one to confirm our suspicions.

Like medieval emissaries bearing gifts we paraded into the lounge and laid our boxes proudly at the feet of Ian Buckler, who was not impressed. He was in charge of non-food items, and soap powder was not a problem. A shortage of toilet paper was his current worry. (Later he found some misplaced crates of that, and to show his delight he composed and pinned up a poem celebrating the event and the glories of Bronco paper. We would no longer face using newspaper for the last few months of the year – but would that have been a change for the worse, or the better? There was some disagreement on that point.)

Over the next few weeks I returned several times to the roof, getting almost as adept as Kista in swinging across from the Klondike. I dismantled the exposed part of the stand and salvaged some Dexion though the drips continued until I nailed an old groundsheet over the damaged roof timbers. At least the drips were only meltwater. I had been relieved to see that Kista's chosen toilet area was well away from my bunkroom.

This tale may link in to another, a year later. We had heard the theory that a substantial pool of water could develop beneath the floor of a heated hut surrounded by snow but as it was usually out of sight it seemed irrelevant. Two of the new arrivals, Jeremy Bailey and "Doc" John Wilson, now found that the water level beneath the IGY hut had risen so that puddles appeared in the lowest sections of the very uneven floor. That included their offices and John's bunkroom. Their first defence was to construct duckboards, like large wooden bath mats to keep them above the water level as they walked about. Later a pump was installed and the water piped into the ice cave by the coal store, where it vanished into the porous snow.

There was much debate over the origin of the water. Jeremy declared that it must be from the gash pit in the main hut, the only substantial source of liquid in this frozen environment. This added urgency to his complaint as the various liquids that went down the gash pit would certainly be unhygienic and possibly a health hazard. (The two toilets were simply wooden seats above this pit.) Other people looked at the horizontal distance that would have to be travelled in some underground stream and argued that it would surely freeze solid long before reaching the IGY hut. They favoured some source much closer to where the problem was now seen, and I sided with them.

During my excursions on to the roof the previous year I had seen the cave formed as the ice above was steadily melted away by heat rising from the hut. That meltwater could only escape by flowing down the sides of the cave, or even down the roof, and ending up below the hut. There, presumably, it would initially seep down a short distance through the snow before freezing. This would build up a solid, impervious layer

# Features

of ice until it extended widely enough to impound all future meltwater. That was when a pool would start to accumulate beneath the floor.

This mechanism also suggested that an alternative to pumping was to cut a hole in the floor and drive a steel stake downward and into this ice barrier. If it was not too thick the ice could be pierced or shattered to let the water rush out through the plughole, as it were. I looked forward to seeing whether this would work but by now the pumping (for several hours at a calculated rate of 300 gallons per hour) had taken the problem out of sight beneath the floorboards and people lost interest.



by now the pumping (for several hours at a calculated rate of 300 gallons per hour) had taken the problem out of sight beneath the floorboards and people lost interest.

*(Ian Ross working his way along the roof of the IGY hut in 1965. Scrap wood and debris is emerging from the snow overhead, beyond him – photo Lewis Juckes).*

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## ANTARCTIC SOJOURN – time as a JOHN BISCOE OFFICER 1965-1967

Peter Hay

Peter Hay was 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer on the John Biscoe, from 1965 to 67, during which he wintered as a met man on Adelaide Island between seasons:-

I have written an account of my time in BAS which, in time, will be incorporated into a book which I hope to write. Most of the account will be of no interest to BAS Club members as it is written for non-Fids. However bits of it might be of interest and fill half a page or so of the BAS Club Magazine.

*ED's Note: - I have extracted stories that may be of interest to Club members*



### FULL ASTERN ROCK

The most picturesque part of the Antarctic Peninsula is the Lemaire Channel and the most striking part of it is twin peaks which come straight out of the sea, and rise to 747 metres. I found a similar shaped peak under water. The Captain was usually on the bridge while we were surveying, but if we were in deep water offshore he might go down to do a bit of paper work. This was the case one morning when I was on watch. His standing orders definitely started "Half ahead on crossing the 100 fathom line" (600 feet). After that it was probably something like "Slow ahead, and Call Me, at 80 fathoms" When I rang Half Ahead at 100 fathoms the echo sounder trace was still rocketing upwards. I did not get round to calling the Captain, but with the prescience that goes with the job, Capt. Tom came through the door to the bridge at the same time that I rang Full Astern. The trace was still rocketing upwards when we lost it in the prop wash. When the propeller first goes astern the force of the ship, still going ahead against the direction of the propeller, causes cavitation and air bubbles. This lasts until the ship stops. While this is happening the radio waves from the echo sounder to the bottom and back are disrupted. After we lost the echo sounder trace a long pause ensued. I was wondering whether an echo sounding was going to segue into a forepeak tank sounding. Eventually we stopped and then lowered a boat over, and hand sounded it. It was under 7 fathoms. It had gone from 100 fathoms to 7 in about 2 cables (1200 feet) Even in a small ship that was only about 6 ship's length. Peter the "Drogy" (R N Hydrographer) when he sent the Fair Copy of his chart into the Hydrographic Office at Taunton called it "Full Astern Rock".

*NOTE: Peter has updated this episode as follows:---*

*"Full Astern Rock". --- Going through "Professor Google" recently I now see it was named after someone else.*

*"Joubert Rock" is a rock with a least depth of 12.5 metres (41ft), lying 9 kilometres (5nmi) southwest of Pod Rocks and 17 kilometres (9nmi) west-southwest of Millerand Island, in Marguerite Bay, Antarctica. It was charted by*

# Features

*the Hydrographic Survey Unit from RRS John Biscoe in 1966, and was named for Arthur B.D. Joubert, third officer of the John Biscoe and officer of the watch when the rock was discovered.<sup>[1]</sup>*

*That is the Google Entry. There is one factual error there. Bruce (D. Joubert) was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer and I was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer. The fact that he is called Arthur would indicate the writer did not know him. By the time the chart would have been published neither of us were working for the Survey.*

## A BRIEF SWIM

While we were working the dress code was informal. For breakfast and lunch we would usually wear our bridge rig-“B.A” boots- those calf length, fur lined boots, so well remembered by every sailor who has been on the S. American run; uniform trousers; and then either a roll neck sweater or else an oiled wool Norwegian sweater from the ships “Slop Chest”. Dinner was always full uniform.

It was amazing how often when we finished work on a Sunday afternoon that we were adjacent to a snug anchorage, or else we could put the ship into a convenient bit of fast ice. The cooks would then always put on the best meal of the week.

A relaxed evening would follow. It was in the course of one of these evenings that Bruce, the 2<sup>ND</sup> Officer,, and I took on a bet to go for a swim. The idea was to get away from the ship, and it’s overboard discharges, and go to a small ice flow nearby.

Scenting blood the crew had the work boat swung out in a trice before we could change our minds. When I jumped off the boat onto the ice flow, my bare feet made me pause.

Some Fid, armed with the inevitable camera, shouted from the ship “Hurry up-I am getting cold!” Then the work boat got into the spirit of it and started going astern. That settled it. I am sure an Olympic Record was set and I was still swimming as I came over the stern of the boat.

## LIFE ON ADELAIDE ISLAND

We received the tragic news that three men at the Halley Bay Base had been lost when their Muskeg tractor went through the snow bridge over a crevasse. This was obviously going to cause a reshuffle of existing BAS Base personnel. There was not even an airstrip in the Falkland Islands in those days, so no chance of getting anyone else in. One of the jobs was a weather observer. As a ships officer I had been trained in Met and had served on a number of ships which had sent observations into the British Met Office. I volunteered to fill that position.

So at the end of the season, before the ship left, I paid off. I still have my British Seaman’s Discharge Book with the entry: Signed on-Southampton; Signed off-Adelaide Island, Antarctica.

Base “T”, Adelaide Island, was basically the Southern Air Base in summer. The planes, two single engine DH Otters, lived in the open on the ice piedmont above the base. Before winter they would fly north to Deception Island where there was a hanger.

When I got ashore, in view of my background, they promoted me to Admiral and then told me to fix the dingy.

The base had about half a dozen huts scattered around; the radio shack; the garage for the tractors; store rooms; the generator shed and the met. hut as well as the main living hut,

To get accurate met readings the Met Hut had to be in clean air away from anything that could distort the readings. For this reason it was on top of the rocky outcrop about 40 feet up from the main hut. There was a fixed climbing rope to help you climb up when the weather got marginal. As this was to be my place of work I climbed up shortly after I got there to have a look. It was about 10 foot square and had a couple of wires crossed over the roof and secured by anchors set in concrete. I looked at the wires with a sailor’s eye and thought that there was a bit of overkill there. Later on in the middle of winter I could see why they were there and hoping they would keep the hut tied down.

As a ships officer I had sailed on a number of ships that had been selected by the UK Met Office to send in reports. They were the basics-corrected barometer readings; max/min thermometer temperatures; dew-point; humidity; wind, sea, and cloud details. Ashore, these were sent every three hours, plus a number more.

The one that I had no experience with was hydrogen balloons to measure upper air wind speed and direction. In those days after launching the balloon you would track it manually with a theodolite taking readings every five minutes. As the “dolly” had a very restricted field of vision when the balloon hit a strong

# Features

airstream you were frantically winding the controls trying to keep up with it, and keep it in your very limited field of vision. You often lost it then, but sometimes you would be able to track it for an hour or so. The problem then was juggling taking your hands out of your mittens to work the instrument and then putting them back in for a minute or two between readings to stop them from freezing.. When it was cold if you touched steel with your bare fingers your body heat would melt the ice for a nanosecond, and then it would freeze again leaving your fingers stuck to the steel. When you removed your fingers some skin would remain. Painful.



*Peter Hay, Bernie Chapell; Nick McLaren – phot Peter Hay*

The worst time I had with cold fingers was one night going out to read the instruments in the Stevenson Screen. Everyone has seen one even if they do not know the name. Thermometers etc cannot be in direct sun, but they need good airflow round them. The white painted box with walls of slats works well. On this particular night, with the snow being blown

horizontally, the wind was forcing the snow up the 45 degree slope of the slats and into the box. I opened the box, and with both feet wide apart and my left hand gripping the screen for support against the wind buffeting I started gently removing the snow with my unmittened right hand. Working around the thermometers was bad but the hygrometer was worse. I was making fair progress when I got a few twinges in my hand. Not far to go so I kept on. A stronger twinge made me retreat to the hut. After a couple of minutes inside the blood started going back into my fingers and the pain started. I was walking up and down the hut (all of three paces!) with my right hand tucked under my left armpit with involuntary tears running down my face. After a while I looked at my fingers and could see about half a dozen black dots the size of a pinhead. I was pretty disgusted with myself. "You bloody wimp - a bit of frost nip-think what proper frostbite would be like"

## **A COOK JOB!!**

Another thing that we did to give a break in the routine was that on a Sunday the cook would do someone else's job and we would take it in turn to be cook. Now I had gone to boarding school at 11, the training ship at 15 and then straight to sea at 18. I did not have a clue. However in your 20's as well as being cast iron and bullet proof, you can also Do Anything. First thing was to find the Instruction Manual.

Gerry who was the Chief Steward on the ship had been a cook on one of the bases and had written an excellent cookbook "Fit for a Fid" The recipe for Tournedos of Seal Portugaise or Roulades of Penguins Breast, might have stretched me a bit but I reckon his Spaghetti Bolognaise (1 tin dried spaghetti; 3 tablespoons reconstituted onions; ½ tin of tomatoes etc.) would have been within my capabilities.

There was only one problem-we did not have it. For some reason our cookbook was "Mrs Beeton's Cook Book"-(Yes, The Mrs Beeton!) Even though I was not interested in cooking it made fascinating reading. The first few chapters were nothing to do with cooking, but how you ran a large staff in a Victorian household. For instance as well the order of precedence for guests seating, the staff had their own order of precedence for seating. (Butler at the head of the table etc) It was essentially a handbook on how to run "Downton Abbey"

After half an hour of fascinated reading I realised, with a start, that I had a meal to cook, and started looking through the recipes. We did not have much in the way of pheasant, grouse, or salmon down there and I was starting to get a bit worried. Then I thought "Queen Victoria-The Height of the Empire-The Jewel in the Crown-The Raj". Looked up " C" for curry and I was in business.

# Features

It was all pretty straightforward except the fine print at the end said Curry Powder-3 tps. It took me a couple of minutes to work that one out, and then I thought "I have just had three years in the Far East and I like my curries a bit hot" so I doubled up. That is how instead of putting in say three teaspoonful's of curry powder I put in six tablespoonful's. To put it in marine engineering terms, the exhaust temperatures were running a bit high that night.

The next time I was on cook one of the guys, Peter I think, said he had a recipe he wanted to try and did I mind? "Be my guest". This happened the following time and the penny dropped. At the evening meal I said that it was obvious that when I was cook a "minder" had been appointed. Could we renegotiate things? Net result was I did a double turn on gash hand but did not cook. Everyone thought I could do less damage to morale (and stomachs) by sweeping decks and emptying the garbage can than by being in the galley

## SKI-ING!!

As the days got longer we started spending more time outside. Eric was a mountaineer and took us out for some lessons. He took us on to the sea ice and showed us how to cut steps into the frozen- in icebergs and get to the top, before abseiling down. Under his encouragement when I got back to the UK I applied to do a Beginners Alpine Course. They said they did not have enough starters, but in view of my Antarctic experience they would let me start on a more advanced course. The other half dozen guys, (and gal,) had plenty of rock climbing experience in Scotland and Wales but none on ice. At first it was fine for me, but then we ran out of snow and ice, and with it my limited expertise. Once we got on to rock I was out of my depth while they were just hitting their straps. I got my first rock climbing experience at about 10,000 ft. I finished the course, but the only mountains I have been to the top of since have either been by car or cable car. Eric himself was unfortunately killed in a climbing accident in Spitsbergen, in the Arctic, a number of years later.

## DEPARTURE

I had expected to stay on the Base until about January, when the ship would get there, but while the ship was doing the northern bases it turned out they needed me earlier, and before the ice had broken further south. Arrangements were made to fly me up to an American Base at Anvers Island about 250 miles further North, to meet up with the ship.

Standing Orders were that whenever the plane was working you had to have an airframe fitter/mechanic with you. It was a glorious day when the three of us took off. I was sitting in the co-pilots seat with a map in front of me and marking the ice concentration, dispositions etc which an observer did every time it flew.

We had a beautiful run up until we got there and then we could see the "mank", the ground level cloud rolling down from the 9,000ft peak. We could see the shoreline, but nothing beyond it. Bob made three timed runs into where he had been told the airstrip was, and having seen nothing, had to turn back before we flew into something. Sitting alongside him I had had plenty of experience at looking through wheelhouse windows at "fog, mist, falling snow, heavy rainstorms, or any other condition similarly restricting visibility" (Collision Regulations, the Navigators Bible) and I could see nothing either.

Bob said "I will give it one more go before we turn back."

*Bob Burgess – photo Peter Hay*

This time he saw a marker, put one wing tip over it, spun round and put the plane down. The Americans had heard, but not seen us circling overhead, and suddenly here we were. They were impressed.

We spent a couple of days with the Americans, and it was interesting to compare notes and experiences with them. One thing that impressed me was that they had a bobcat which delivered snow to a chute on the side of the hut where it was fed into a boiler to make water.

Although it was a complete change of lifestyle I slotted straight back into shipboard routine while the ship delivered stores and personnel to the Northern Bases. After that it was back to Port Stanley



# Features

## JIM FRANKS' DIARY- Part V – 1958 May to July

by Jim Franks

1958

### Thursday 1st May

The temp got down to -1.2°F last night but has risen steadily during the day to a max of 17°F. The sea is showing signs of freezing and all the brash which is packed along the shore is freezing together, so Robin and I went along to the Plaza to do an ob on the ice, it not being good enough vis. to go up to do an ob at the ice ob point.

Saw one baby crab-eater round there but it seems most of the animal life has migrated by now apart from our winter neighbours, the 'Paddies', Dominicans and occasional Stinkers and Snow Petrels.

More fudge this evening, vanilla this time and chocolate eclairs for tea. --- Did a balloon using telephone today, very successful.

### Friday 2nd May

Gray has gone out on his trip at last, taking Al with him, lucky fellow! Not very good weather to start in, rather windy but quite fine although the usual low cloud, later.

Another skiing lesson this afternoon including a trip up to the ice ob point, rather icy up there, consequently very fast coming down, which I did mostly in a recumbent posture.

Quite a bit of frazil ice today although a changing wind keeps taking the brash out, then blowing it back again and breaking up what ice was forming. Pack ice was visible in the Bransfield Strait, from the ice ob point.

### Saturday 3rd May

Temp going down again, reached -2°F by evening. Pretty cold inside too except for kitchen and living room, even in the base office, with just a door between it and living room at over 60°F, the temp is 22°F, consequently had to get a move on scrubbing out before the water froze. Drift snow is finding its way in around the windows, and despite double glass and the internal temp, it lays in little piles on the sill without thawing.

The workshop full again, Geoff making another triangle, Tink preparing Greenland sledge for training the young dogs, and myself making a coat hanger again.

Put the pups in the coal cellar as it's so cold and windy outside for them.

### Sunday 4th May

Robin on cook this week. -- Have decided that with one short on the met staff the cook can do his turn on the night obs.

Still cold windy weather, seems to be a ridge of high pressure from down south on the Weddell Sea. temp below zero all day, no fun for Al and Gray lying up, no chance for them to do any surveying since they went out, due to the usual low cloud.

Made good progress on the coat hanger, looks as if this will be a quicker job than one Geoff made last year, that took him two weeks.

### Monday 5th May

On met. -- Weather still the same, have completed my coat hanger and put on one coat of varnish, and put some more glass in the met office window. One side was only single panes and the frost on the inside of these is now a good 1/8" thick, temp in there was 23°F and all the ink froze up.

The mark 1 'genny' went wrong last night so we had to go onto the mark 2 a bit sooner than Chris wanted as its not completely run in yet from his work on it a week ago.

### Tuesday 6th May

Al's birthday.

As Chris is now busy on his engines again, Robin has asked me to make the book shelves for the library overflow in the coolery. Got under way with this despite considerable hindrance from Geoff who is still making triangles, and Tink who is still working on the Greenland sledge.

Scored again on FIDS programme, Robin had a birthday record played, 'Jupiter' from the Planet Suite, celebrated Al's birthday in his absence.

Two bull elephant seals came ashore to their death this morning on the beach opposite the pup pen, much to Tex's delight, as he is there at the moment due to a chafed neck. While we were gutting them, Geoff

# Features

and Chris nearly went for a ride on the sea ice, which suddenly opened up, probably caused by waves from a glacier fall. Chris shot the elephants despite the pups enthusiastic attempts to manage on their own.



*Gutting Elephant Seals*

Tink over the hill to the depot, to replace a couple of ropes on the sledge there, a job he forgot before it was taken round, still it saves someone else going up to do an ice job. I worked all day on the book shelves and had them up and stocked by about 11 o'clock in the evening. Signal today to say Frank Elliott (Secfids) has transferred to a job in Swaziland.

## **Thursday 8th May**

On met. ---- Tink and Chris over to the depot to carry up some ration boxes to the top of Depot Hill, but they returned at lunch time. Their excuse was it was blowing a blizzard, but since it's been dead calm here all day that's a bit hard to swallow, anyway the pups went with them all the way so they can't have gone far.

Topped up the bathroom tank with some difficulty as the ice along the beach is now frozen in to a solid ice float.

Gray and Al returned this afternoon after having been seen at Hennequin earlier. They don't seem sorry to have got back, they say its been rather rugged.

Small fight between Nokton, who got off and Xenon, nothing serious.

## **Friday 9th May**

The war ended.

Temp has gone right up to 30°F again overnight and all the sea ice has gone out on a northerly wind.

Al and I skied up to the ice job pt in the afternoon but the vis. was none too good and very little ice was left in the bay as far as we could see. Put in a couple of hours skiing practice while we were up there.

Scrub out in the forenoon, weather back in the east again, hence temp down and some of the ice back.

After Geoff had given the living room a thorough scrub out, I reorganised the library in conjunction with the new shelves in the coolery. All the technical books and the older fiction books, in there, the new books, the Polar books and reference section in the living room, now rearranged so that three shelves in the corner have been removed to make way for the couch when we get around to making it.

Robin has been making some ginger beer, which he pronounced fit for consumption this evening; very good, could be a bit more gingery though.

## **Sunday 11th May**

Robin's birthday. Rogation Sunday. On met today. - Geoff cook this week. Gray gash hand.

A fine day so all except myself and Geoff off over the hill to carry up to the depot.

Geoff was kept pretty busy skedding and cooking while I potted around on a few odd jobs, did the obs and made a nuisance of myself in the kitchen baking a cake and icing it and another supplied from Geoff's private store.

One for Rob and a rather belated one for Al .

## **Monday 12th May**

Al and Gray took some more of their gear round to the lower depot on the Greenland sledge, as a loosening up exercise for the dogs. They are both going out on about a four week sledging trip as soon as we can manage to get all the stores up on Depot Hill. According to how the weather goes they will return to base, replenish stores then I will be going out with Gray on the next bit of his survey.

A fairly rough day, no good for carrying so I drew up preliminary plans for our couch. Rob and Tink ringed another nine Sheathbills. There is quite a variety of birds about now including a Sooty Albatross, several Silver Grey Fulmars and Cape Pigeons.

# Features

The usual Monday night at nine with the Chileans at Arturo Prat base on Greenwich Is., this week included a musical interlude from them, now we have all heard the Easter Island song we have been told so much about.

## **Tuesday 13th May**

Nansen died.

A fine day so Chris and I set off in the boat with the last load including sledge for the depot while Robin walked over the top to meet us. It was a bit choppier than we thought with an east wind, until we cleared the Plaza so it took rather longer than planned, then just as we started with the first load for the top Chris's crampon broke and we had to stop to mend it.

Unfortunately with the delays we only made one trip, still a 1,000 ft climb with a 52lb ration box or 60lb dog pemmican box is not a feat one is anxious to do again.

Gray and Al took advantage of the good visibility to take some fixes from Flagstaff but apparently the theodolite has gone wrong and they didn't get much done. Graham Land was visible from the top and the Bransfield Strait was full of close pack apparently right across.

Had to leave the boat on the beach below the old hut as we couldn't get any further for pack ice.

The 68 radio set got a bit damp in the boat going round but was considered unharmed, now Geoff says it will have to come back for overhaul, more delay.

FIDS programme tonight, scored again. I had a record request; Gray's personal message is billed for next week but it looks as if he will be gone by then.

## **Wednesday 14th May**

Gray busy repairing his theodolite most of the day. Tink, Al and I went off to launch the boat and Al and I rowed back, Al jumped out when we got alongside the ice foot and found the water deeper than it looked.

Rob and Chris made a final trip to the depot and returned with the radio, which Geoff is now drying out and cleaning, to the accompaniment of much cursing of idiots who got it wet in boats.

## **Thursday 15th May**

On met. --- Still fine weather, pressure very high and no sign of a change yet, hope it holds till we can get the sledging party away.

Rob and I did a balloon in the morning and Al helped me with another in the late afternoon after some skiing practice. We left it a bit late though and were overtaken by darkness about 5 o'clock. The days are drawing in now, due to the Plateau and the Kellar Range cutting off a deal of sunshine we are now getting about three hours a day maximum.

Chris is busy making a new fuel tank from a 40 gall. drum to supply both engines from the oil store.

Tink and Gray up Flagstaff with theodolite finishing fixes started on Tuesday. Gray tried to come

## **Friday 16th May**

Gray and Al making final preparations for their trip, Al making soft bindings for his ski. I went up to the ice ob pt. and put in some more skiing practice.

Venus has been brought up to the Square Box, as she is showing signs of being a maternity case again.

## **Saturday 17th May**

'Mafeking has been relieved' Hurrah !

Geoff tested the 68 set and having pronounced it OK we all set off about 10 o'clock to get the sledging trip started. Al and Gray harnessed up the dog team to the Greenland and drove round to the lower depot, while Chris, Rob and I went over the top with the radio and theodolite.

Very lucky with the weather, dead calm and clear skies all day, which certainly helped make things easier. Having got the sledge to the top of Depot Hill with the combined effort of dogs and us, we loaded up all their gear apart from three ration boxes which Rob, Chris and I carried about a mile towards the top of the Plateau. This part was covered on skis due to the danger of crevasses but I had considerable trouble with the skins keep coming off mine. These skins (sealskin or an imitation material) are fitted to give a greater grip when going up hill and are very fine things whilst on the ski but not much good trailing behind.

When we had carried the boxes as far as Rob considered necessary, we went back down to lend a hand on the sledge which didn't seem to be making much progress, only to find they had put one runner down a crevasse and had had to off load everything.

# Features

We finally bid them farewell and watched them dip down over the horizon, a little after four o'clock, then turned and made our own way back arriving, quite worn out, about half past five, in time for a much appreciated beer before supper and then early to bed.

*Graham and Al leaving on a trip*



## **Sunday 18th May**

On met also cook this week.

A quiet lazy day after all that work in the past week.

Now there are only three met men the cook is not excused met duties but Rob has offered to do the 9 o'clock for me so I can lay in after the 6 o'clock.

Gladstone died (probably a brainstorm trying to remember what he said).

Geoff heard a buzz last night that the boat party out from base 'O' are in trouble and this morning we heard that Johnny Green is aboard HMS Burghead Bay, making tracks to go to their rescue. So now we must extend our ice obs to include as much of Bransfield St. as can be seen, this means going to the top of Flagstaff every day. Doesn't look as if they'll get very far south, there's 10/10 pack all round.

Rob and Tink started to make a new centre trace for the Greenland sledge, for training a new team, but they mis-measured and ended up with two rope brakes instead. I made some fine stickjaw type toffee in the evening.

## **Tuesday 20th May**

Everyone late up due to met man oversleeping he (Tink) blamed the Westclox as usual.

No further news of the lads from base 'O', all this listening in for news must be hard on Geoff, he's undertaken to drink 13 cups of tea this afternoon.

I've been amusing myself, in between cooking by splicing the centre trace that Rob and Tink failed on yesterday. Very poor reception on FIDS programmes, hardly heard any of it. Wireless reception is getting very bad now, particularly at night.

## **Wednesday 21st May**

Petal and Statham found a male elephant seal on the beach and had great fun sorting it out.



*Statham and the Elephant Seal*

taken at the elephant were photographic type.

We decided we have enough dog food now with one team out, so the only shots

# Features

I finished off the centre trace today, but the sledge is still round at the depot waiting to be hauled round. Rob and Tink ringed another 4 Sheathbills, to manage this they locked Petal and Statham up in the Pup pen much to their disgust. Geoff called up Gray and Al but heard nothing for atmospheric. Made some currant bread this evening, very good !

## Thursday 22nd May

Chris, Geoff and Tink over the hill to bring back the Greenland sledge, but it brought them most of the way except when they fell off. ---A fine sunny calm day, the sea ice forming fast while it stays calm.

Tink busy, making like a D & P service. -- Tink on met has brought the temp up to about 30°F and blown all our sea ice out, you just can't trust some people!

Chris is trying to make a spare engine up out of odd pieces, probably bits he forgot to put back last time he had the Mark 3 apart. Robin monopolising the dark room this evening, also spreading out into the living room, you can't move without falling into a washing tray.

Had a pre-Empire Day drink in the evening and decided to celebrate tomorrow with a parade and ceremonial hoisting of the flag. Signal from Johnny Green to say they have turned back, having encountered ice. Presume boat party is OK.

## Saturday 24th May

On met today. ---Empire Day. ---General scrub out, then Tink and Rob splicing traces for the new dog team. Some pack has come back into the bay but the temp is still high.

Finished off a film on some indoor shots, then developed it, when I can get in the darkroom I'll do some prints. Forgot to have our parade. Made some brioche (French type rolls) in the evening.

## Sunday 25th May

Gash hand this week. -- Tink on cook. --- Whit Sunday.---- My bath night.

A lazy day. Robin still littering the place with trays of water. Didn't hear sledge party but if they heard us Geoff has arranged a sked tomorrow with Deception listening in.

## Monday 26th May

Whit. Samuel Pepys died.

A good strong W. gale all day with a cold frost in the morning. Indoor work, sewing harnesses for the new dog team, now all ready to start training when the weather clears. Rather rugged out, cutting snow blocks for bath and kitchen tanks.

Printed a few shots from the film I developed Saturday. Drank to Chris's niece's birthday.

Wes'tly gale kept up 45-50 knots until early morning. Geoff contacted sledge party today, they are camping above Stignant Valley and doing fairly well on the obs.

## Tuesday 27th May

On met. -- Help Rob and Chris finish the dog harnesses after the final fittings, in between obs, balloons and a walk up to the ice ob pt. Graham Land just visible from the top and could hear a faint roaring sound which

Rob said was the sea breaking on the other side of the island. Pack ice was visible about 25 miles south and yet some large floes were visible from low down, due to refraction, no doubt.

Heard on FIDS programme my message comes up next week. Finished off printing the current film, two or three good full plates. Eddie and Nymph indoors to thaw out after yesterday's gale.

## Wednesday 28th May

Removal day, Scotland (good!!!)

Arose late after night met, then put in some gash hand work. Statham fell in the oggin trying to pull out all the gash I'd ditched. I rescued him and Chris rescued me.

Indoor type weather, so started on stats. Rob and Tink have started on the 3206's during their met duties. Chris is still surrounded by engine parts in the workshop and Geoff is busy on triangle the third.

Ran off a few prints for the lads this evening.

## Thursday 29th May

Sir W. S. Gilbert died. Tink on met has fetched up a fine n'thly gale, only trouble is its blowing all the sea ice out and the temp is up to 30°F. Recovered the bathroom table with cortisone and made a temporary screen for the bottom bookshelf, to guard the thermo and hygro as we intend running them near the floor for a few months, as a comparison to their position up till now, near the ceiling.

Wind 45-50 kts since just before lunch. I bet Gray and Al are just loving this.

# Features

## Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May

On met today. -- N'thly gale continued all day blowing up to 75kts, and finally dying out in the evening.

Indoor work by all, I did some make and mending. Chris and Geoff still performing in the workshop and Rob and Tink busy on the stats.

The wire screen I created yesterday on the bookshelf has now got a paper cut out rabbit in it complete with paper carrot stuck in the wire and a notice proclaiming :- 'Rare Admiralty Bay Stat. Please do not feed this animal'.

Enlarging on our habit of writing each other messages during night met, Robin has written some short rhymes to each of us, obviously inspired by Edward Lear whom he was reading last night.

## Saturday 31st May

From the third quadrant in succession we now have an Easterly gale blowing up to 60kts. This has brought in cold air and the temp dropped 14<sup>o</sup>F in about half an hour and has continued down to 11<sup>o</sup>F. This has made scrubbing out a rather chilly process, but now we can clear the front porch of the snow that has found its way in during the N. gale.

Drift snow is so fine that it gets in everywhere, in fact it seems almost to come through solid matter.

Made an attempt to top up the kitchen tank this afternoon but it has got so low during the past couple of days that there is insufficient heat in it to melt the snow quickly and the tank was soon full to the brim with snow, which means barely a third full when it has melted, so I'll have to finish off tomorrow.

Also topped up the bathroom tank, this is now a simple task, simply shovelling snow blocks from the drift, along the side of the hut, in through the hatch in the wall built for this purpose. Finished off gash hand week helping Tink scrub out the kitchen in the evening.

This is certainly not the best weather for the campers.

Mean temp 19.1<sup>o</sup>F Max 34<sup>o</sup> Min -5<sup>o</sup>

Today was the day for Venus to pup according to Tink's calculations, but nothing happened, wonder if she is pulling a fast one, and enjoying the milk and other preferential treatment she's getting?

*F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st to 31st May, 1958*

*Base G - Admiralty Bay 1st to 31st May*

*During the first part of the month there was a very cold spell with temperatures down to minus five. In the second half of the month there was a gale which blew out all the sea ice and destroyed half of the old Nissen hut.*

*Davey and Gill left the Base with the dog team on a survey trip and were helped to the plateau by all members of the base.*

*A new alternator was fitted to the MK1 engine and a second MK3 engine was overhauled and rebuilt. Twenty five*

*Sheathbills were ringed during the month and two bull Elephant seals shot.*

*The bitch Venus was admitted to the maternity kennel.*

## Sunday 1st June

Chris cook. Tink and I dog feeding this week.

A quiet day both in weather and activity. Finished topping up the kitchen tank also finished off the make and mend session I started the other day.

It seems strangely quiet after the past few days of gales, with no loud roaring in the chimneys and rather ominous sounding creaks and shudderings of the hut. A thin covering of sea ice has formed since the wind dropped. A wonderful clear evening with bright full moon, took half a dozen photos Rather sad news from sledge party, both Xenon and Nokton have been hurt in a fight and will have to return. Arranged to meet them on Depot Hill on second fine day, giving them one day for obs and one day's travelling.

We all hope that this is not too serious as they are two of our best dogs, at the same time this produces the thought that this is our only worry in life here, the health and livelihood of our dogs.

There are none of the petty trials and responsibilities of civilisation and I'm sure we get along all the better for that, certainly none of us pine for or feel homesick for any of the so called amenities we have left behind.

# Features



*Hut in the moonlight*

## **Monday 2nd June**

Coronation Day. On met. Bar falling, temp up to 32°F and wind rising again.

Have put the thermo and hygro in the 'rabbit hutch'. Robin and Chris went skiing before breakfast, that is between 09:30 and 10:30. Must be the effect of the moon last night.

Geoff has decided to give up making triangles and is now constructing a box for the 'Tilley' lamp to travel in.

A change of diet today, had fried penguin steaks for lunch, excellent. Rob and Tink took a couple of the dogs for a walk yesterday and they caught a couple of penguins so we had one and they had the other.

Another sked with sledge party this evening, arrangement still stands, they require two new dogs, some paraffin and another primus stove. If this means the stove they have has packed up, then things up there are a bit rugged.

Heard bad news from base 'Y', a sledge party went out across the sea ice, and it broke up the next day. No news has been heard from them since. There were three in this party, two we know, Dave Statham and Stan Black from Signy.

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

Awoke this morning to the announcement that Venus was having her pups at last, she found her way into the hut this morning and bedded down in the porch opposite the ski store alongside Geoff's bike. By evening she had seven but one (a dog unfortunately) had died. Since we have rather a glut of bitches we will probably only keep the dogs, if any.

Took advantage of a fairly calm fall of snow to try my hand at making some snow crystal slides; result three fair samples.

Heard message from Mum and Dad in FIDS programme this evening, Uncle Bob and Auntie Ivy also there to say hello. Apparently they read somewhere of Pete Bunch's return and invited him round to see them!!

Chris busy this evening on a tapestry fire screen, just the thing for the summer when the ships come in.

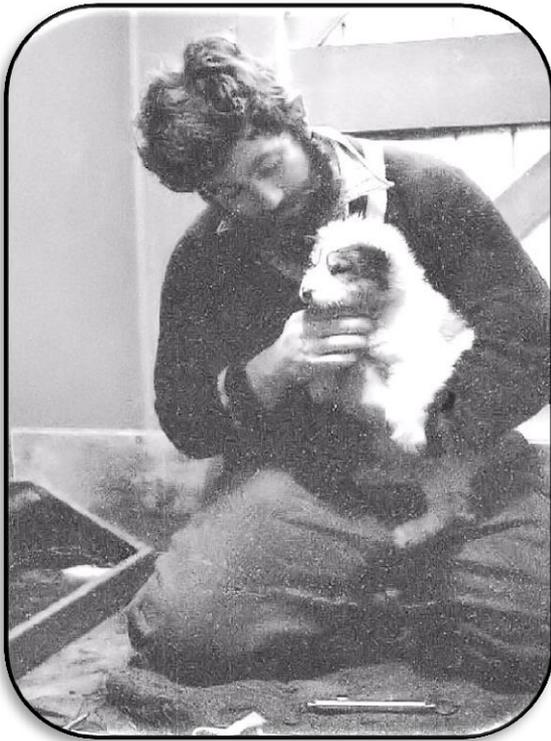
OH! Also in FIDS programme the first of a few talks by returned FIDS, of course, none other than A.J.W-W. A very fine and interesting chat. Hope we hear from Al P.

## **Wednesday 4th June**

Being a fair day Geoff went over the hill for the Ski Master sledge (a man hauler) which was at the bottom depot, and now we are all busy sewing up a canvas sledge tank for it. This is needed for old Xenon when he returns.

A sledge tank is merely canvas sides fitted to the sledge and lashed round the load. This helps hold things on when the sledge overturns. A fine cold front early this morning brought the temp down to 6°F a drop of 24° in seven hours.

# Features



*Tink & Pup*

## **Thursday 5th June**

On met today. Lord Kitchener died. Temp down again, 0.3°F when I took over at 06:00. Min today - 1.5°F

A fine calm day, sea ice forming, so Rob, Geoff and Chris set off to Depot Hill with Ski Master sledge, the extra gear and Tess and Lobo. All except the gear returned about 16:00 as no one turned up, Gray's probably taking advantage of weather to get in a round of obs.

Well, we've seen the last of the sun, it didn't rise above the plateau today.

Tink and I have been quite busy today, me on met and he looking after the radio shack, in between working at digging out emergency stores from the remnants of the Nissen Hut, which the past week's gales have torn down. About half of it is missing, not just collapsed but disappeared.

Tink started a 'do it to numbers' oil painting this evening a picture of Westminster Abbey. Should look good on the wall, if he ever finishes it.

## **Friday 6th June**

D Day Weather was clear by time I got up, so Chris, Tink and I made ready to go up to Depot Hill again with Tess and Lobo. Just as we were starting we saw the sledge on the Plateau so we had to abandon the idea of carrying up a ration box each and make all haste to meet them. As we were roping up to cross the crevasse, who should appear on the scene but Statham and Petal despite their having been tied up when we left, so that they shouldn't follow us.

This caused no end of trouble as the dogs have to be on a lead across the crevasse and while we were trying to sort it out Gray came down the hill. A rather sad meeting he only had Nokton with him, Xenon died last night. Apparently Tess is the culprit, having bitten both of them at the base of the tail and probably injuring Xenon internally.

Gray and Tink returned to base with Nokton, the pups and the radio, which is on the bum again, while Chris and I went on up with Tess and Lobo. Found Al in camp and having given him a 'perks' box from the depot we left taking down the Ski Master sledge to the bottom depot. Al is staying in camp on his own tonight and Gray will rejoin him in the morning.

It has been wonderfully calm since last night with temp round about 7°F and the sea ice has taken a good hold. Must be quite thick as a group of about 18 penguins have been marching around it all day.

## **Saturday 7th June**

Tink on met again, has managed to spoil everything with a strong N'ly wind and rising temp.

So far the ice is holding this side as far as Henniquin but it's breaking up over in Mackellar.

A medical sked with Doc Jones at 'F'. Nokton is to have penicillin injections and his wound bathed for five days.

Celebrated Chris' brother's 21st, in rum punch!!

## **Sunday 8th June**

On met today. Rob cook. Chris gash hand. Alarm didn't go off at six and I woke about twenty past nine to find Tink was up and had done the ob and sent it.

Tink is now a very busy lad as he has to feed Venus and let her out for a run several times a day and he is also helping Rob with Nokton.

Weather has got steadily worse and all the sea ice is well on its way out. Temp above freezing, and rain!

Petal and Statham went on the span today. Tink weighed two of the pups today, 1lb 9oz each.

# Features

## Monday 9th June

Dickens died. No sign of a change in the weather.

Chris has finished putting the spare engine together and we moved the Mark 1 and alternator off its bed ready to put this in. I made up a harness for Nymph as she will be used in the new team now that Tess and Lobo are out. That is, when we can get some snow and can start training.

## Tuesday 10th June

Duke of Edinburgh's birthday. Made to roll up the Mott tent and stow it away but found it needs considerable renovations, a few patches and new guys.

Tink making plenty of noise in the loft moving all the stores from A to B and back again.

## Wednesday 11th June

On met Hooray! the temp's down at last, falling all day to about 6°F.

Finished off the Mott and Tink has also finished playing chess with the stores. Chris has got the spare engine (Mark 3 or is it Mark 4?) finished and called in the heavy gang to place it and the alternator in the bed.

Rob has been treating us to a French menu so far this week, with a different sauce at each meal, but due to some adverse criticism from some, he's given up and reverted to 'good plain English food'.

Medical sked this evening with 'F', Doc's very pleased with Nokton's progress, treatment now just bathing, vitamin pills and feed mostly pemmican. Says he should be fit in two weeks to a month. Will then run him with the new team so as to get his spirit back.

Made 12 new snowflake slides today.

## Thursday 12th June

Geoff having repaired the 68 set is now turning the air blue over his spare receiver. Tink is up to his ears in coloured inks, drawing a graph of the weights of Pam, Tina, Fay and Wendy in their first weeks, to compare with the present litter. No one but Tink has seen these pups yet but there's plentiful audible evidence that they're progressing well.

Geoff brought in a buzz this evening, about the missing party from 'Y'. There is no further news of them but one of their dogs has mysteriously turned up back at the base. Two search parties have gone out one from 'E' (Stonington Is.) and one from the Blaiklock Refuge.

Chris has given new engine a run today, producing a fine smoke screen, he thinks there's something wrong somewhere

*The Genny Shed*

## Friday 13th June

Indoor weather today, heavy snow and strong S.E. wind all day with the temp fallen down to about 5°F. Sea ice is beginning to freeze despite heavy waves.

Took advantage of this to bring some paper work up to date. Robin busy doing watercolour paintings from some of his photos, in between cooking.

Chris still inside his engine.

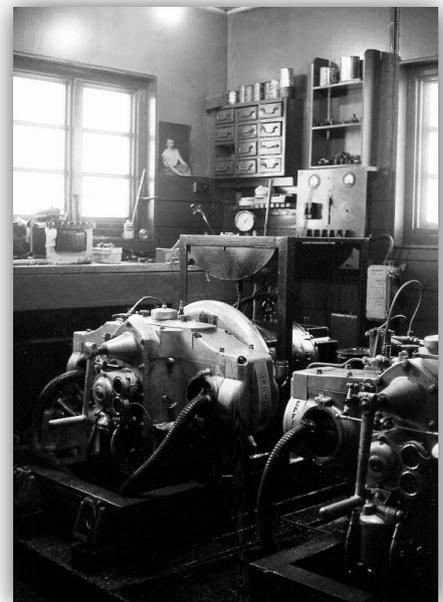
## Saturday 14th June

On met today. Scrub out a chilly process today, temp very steady but falling slowly, min of zero. Snow and wind both stopped and it has been a clear and fine calm day, new ice all over the bay and pack blown in to Mackellar inlet stretching to the horizon. Should be all set now for fast ice for the winter. Hope so, as this not only helps travel but also helps produce fine weather. Did a balloon this afternoon after struggling through snow drifts chest deep, to get to the hut. The snow doesn't lay in an even layer but forms huge drifts and waves ridged with sastrugi often two or three feet high.

## Sunday 15th June

Geoff on cook. Tink gash hand.

A quiet day. Temp still steady and creeping down. Sea ice doing well in this calm cold weather.



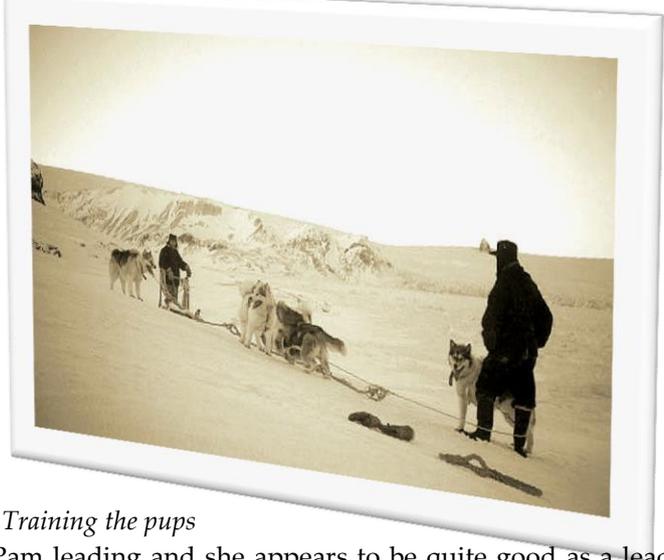
# Features

The sun just touches Pt Henniquin and the Plateau above Pt Thomas for several hours now, tinting it a beautiful gold, gradually turning to pink as the sun disappears again, then the sky to the South turns a rich pink fading upwards to gold, merging into a soft red to orange glow.

## Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Still clear calm weather, sea ice measured today, is 8" thick, should be fairly safe to venture on skis. The whole surface of this ice is covered in most beautiful 'ice flowers', and hoar frost is forming every where covering everything in a bright sparkling coat.

Started work training the new dog team today, they did very well for the first time in harness.



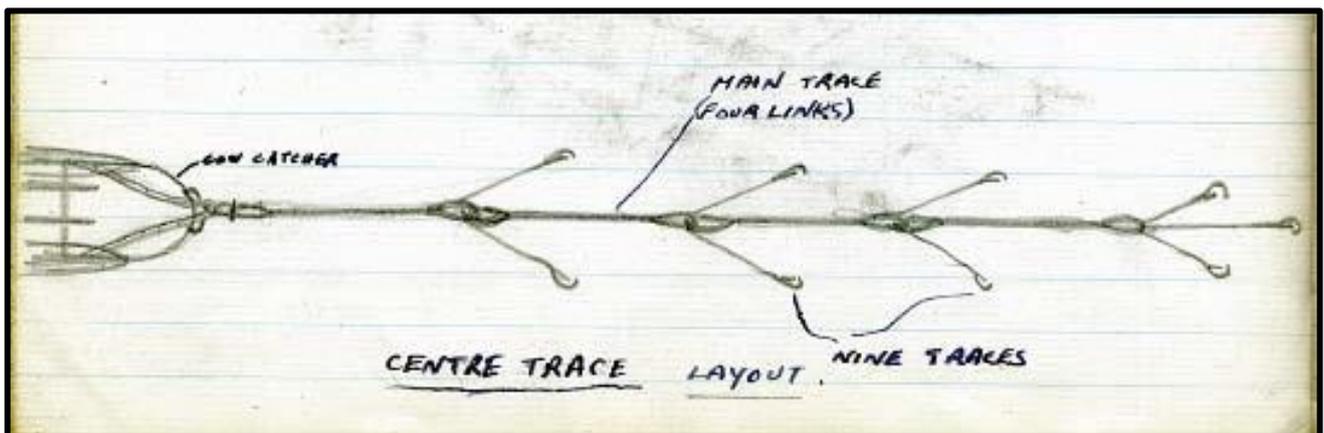
*Training the pups*

Had Pam leading and she appears to be quite good as a leader but Nadia had to be taken out almost before we put her on the trace. She is a real terror, causing fights everywhere and thrash her as you will she takes no notice at all. Tink reports that the pups now have their eyes open.

## Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

On met. Well this is great, weather still nice and calm, sea ice now 10 1/2" thick.

Put the dogs to do some work whilst they are learning, sledged a couple of oil drum along the beach to Chris' stockpile and several boxes up to the old hut. They pulled extremely well for a young untrained team, Nymph, up in front with Pam and Tina today, looks like a possible leader too.



FIDS programme this evening, very poor reception but heard a record request for Geoff.

## Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Waterloo Day

Rob and Chris skied over to Stenhouse Bluff on the sea ice this morning. In the afternoon Chris tried some fishing, Eskimo style, through a hole in the ice, no luck though. Rob and I went out and examined the ice flowers, Rob took a couple of pictures of them. These are really beautiful delicate clusters of feathery leaves about the size of tennis balls and apparently growing out of the ice.

Celebrated the battle of Waterloo with a few drinks and a browse through a stack of Tink's photos of his RAF days in the Middle East. Quite a strange setting for pictures of the desert.

# Features

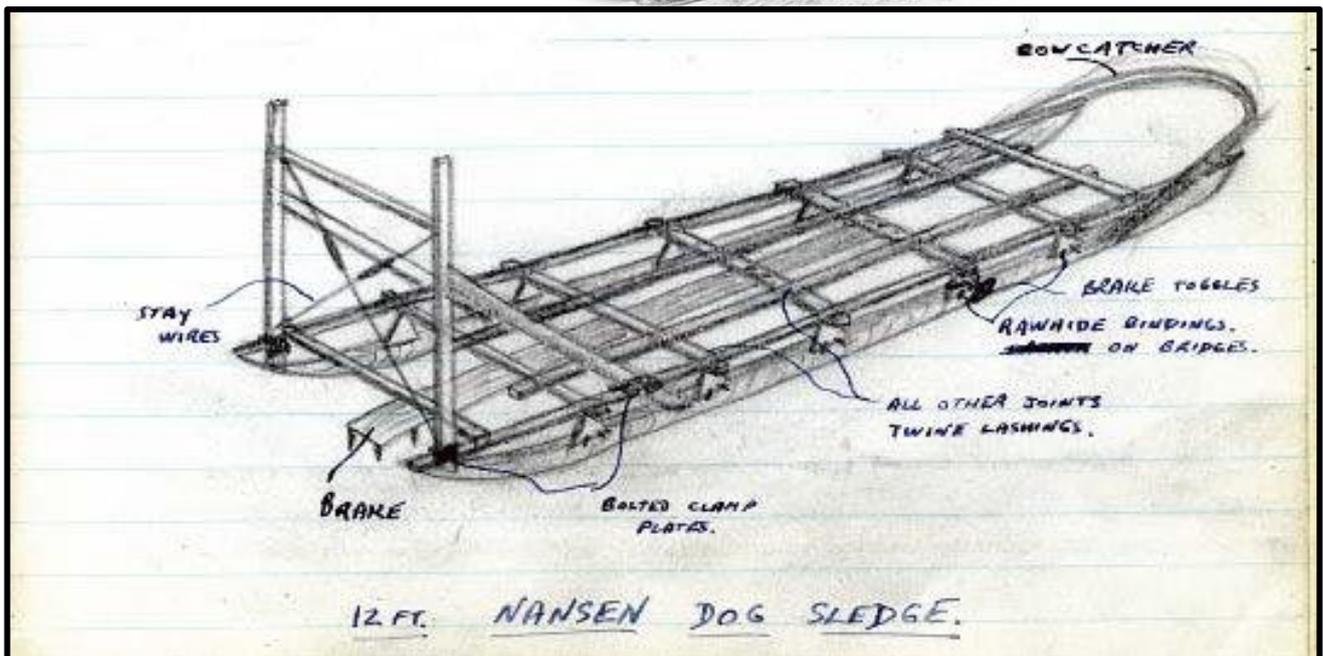
Midwinter greetings telegram from HE the Governor.

Temp went up last night and its blowing fairly strong, hope we don't lose our ice.

Started work on renovating our other 12ft Nansen dog sledge up in the loft. This is very old and rather rickety but with all the lashings renewed it should do for local work with the second team.



*Me building Sledge in the Loft*



M.W.G. today from FIDS office, C.M.O. New Zealanders at Scott Base, Russians at Mirny and the Royal Society's party at Halley Bay.

General preparations for tomorrow's party, decorations put up and fuel for the inner man being got out of store and prepared in the kitchen by Geoff who has been busy since after dinner up to 1 o'clock in the morning.

Managed to get the temp back down after a couple of gales with temps up to 30°F but there is no apparent effect on the ice so we look fairly well set for the rest of the winter.

More work on the Nansen, Chris made me some new U bolts for the clamps in the handles.

MWG. to me from Margot in Stanley, and to base from FIDS treasury, London Office, Scott Polar Research Institute, Australians at Mawson, Macquarrie Is. and Melbourne, and from Norman Leppard and friends.

# Features

SATURDAY 21ST JUNE  
MID WINTER'S DAY



*Mid winter Party – Geoff and Tinker*



# Features

## Sunday 22nd June

On cook this week. Geoff gash hand. A day of recuperation and recovery. Did very little cooking, plenty left over from yesterday.

A pity Al and Gray couldn't get back, they meant to if they possibly could, still it's a good excuse to have a repeat.

A fine party yesterday, stacks to eat and drink, crackers with paper hats, nuts but unfortunately no fruit. The anvil and a sledge hammer made a fine nutcracker. Played silly party games and listened in to the bases but unfortunately couldn't get on the air ourselves as engine noise was so great on the main receiver so we listened on the 68 set, this of course hadn't got the power to get us into the conversation. Air letter from home this evening.

## Monday 23rd June

On met. Weather still very murky as it has been now for over a week.

Tink took Eddie and Statham for a walk on the ice and Chris and Rob skied round to the Plaza. Sea ice is still 16in thick.

A very fine cold front this evening, temp falling some 20°F in an hour and had reached -5°F by the 03:00 ob. a drop of 30°F and still going down.

MWG from Dr Adie, Argentine Antarctic Institute, Dr Fuchs and T.A.E. I was allowed to see the pups today, a fine looking family.

## Tuesday 24th June

Weather hasn't cleared with this change, temp well below zero all day, night and day min of -9°F.

Put in some more work this afternoon on the sledge. Rob and Tink getting together the parts to erect a tide gauge on the ice.

FIDS programme heard this evening on the Bush with the engine off, excellent reception. A 3/4 hour programme instead of the usual 1/2 hr with a very interesting discussion on dogs by Julian Taylor and Angus Erskine.

MWG from Secretary of State, the Queen and Duke and from Ray Butler, the American observer who was on the Biscoe.

## Wednesday 25th June

Finished off the lashings on the sledge today, all that's required now is something in place of the cowcatcher which is broken and one of the driving handles needs a new piece fitted on the top.

Tink and Rob have been working on the construction of the tide gauge apparatus. If the weather allows I hope to get this set up tomorrow. Bread bake today, did all rolls as these are very popular, only trouble is that they go so quickly.

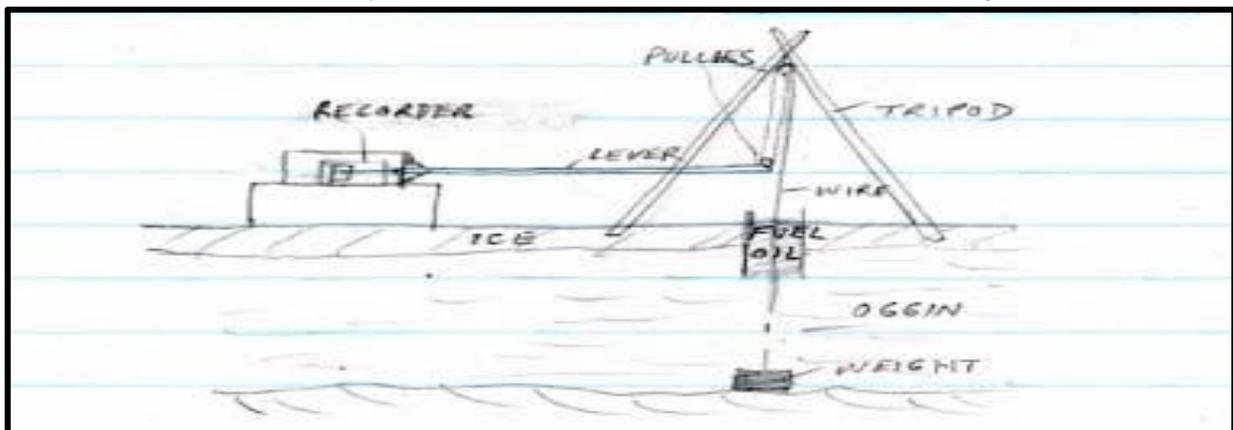
## Thursday 26th June

On met.

Rob and Chris out in the morning digging up the second span as it is now quite deep under a few feet of snow.

The tide gauge was erected in the afternoon but of course will need constant adjustment until it is marking in the right place on the chart. This gauge is quite a simple affair rigged up to the spare thermograph and stands on the sea ice about 50yds out from the shore.

*The Tide Gauge*



# Features

Geoff went skiing this afternoon as weather was fine and calm. Temp below zero all day, and he reports there is still 10/10 ice as far as he could see in the Bransfield Strait. Kept a watch out for Gray and Al but they didn't show up, probably getting in a day's work, it's the first they've had a chance of, for about a fortnight.

Geoff tells us there's still no sign of the missing party from 'Y' and that the third member is Geoff Stride who came down with us on the Shackleton. Things are looking very bad for them now, they've been out about 3 weeks.

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June

Another fine day so every one out getting some exercise, Geoff and Tink skied over the sea ice to Ullman Range and Chris and Rob climbed up to the Dam and skied down. Tink and Geoff came back to say they'd seen Gray and Al coming down to the depot, so after lunch Rob, Tink and Chris set off to meet them and all were back just after five.

Gray and Al in fine health and spirits but quite glad to be back. They have been out 6 weeks and have hardly got in as many days observing and very few travelling. They report dense pack to the horizon in all directions around the island.

Temp fell even further this afternoon giving a day min. of  $-14^{\circ}\text{F}$ , a record so far.

Another bread bake as the others have returned to step up consumption.

## Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

Gray and Al busy sorting out their gear and starting on dhobying. Tristan and Tony in the workshop thawing out having got very heavily iced up on their backs.

Poor Nokton is looking very sad again and is rather constipated, Rob and Tink gave him some castor oil, that should sort him out.

Tide gauge not working very well yet as the clock keeps stopping, probably frozen.

Scrub out rather curtailed owing to the water freezing on the deck.

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Tink cook and I'm gash hand this week. Tink cooked a party dinner for benefit of Gray and Al.

Temp still around zero except for a slight rise yesterday to nearly twenty degrees but it came straight back down again.

In these temps all the unheated rooms are well below freezing with frost over all metal such as door handles nails and screws in the walls etc. Even in the kitchen the condensation on the windows freezes and in rooms with single windows the frost is 1/2" thick on them.

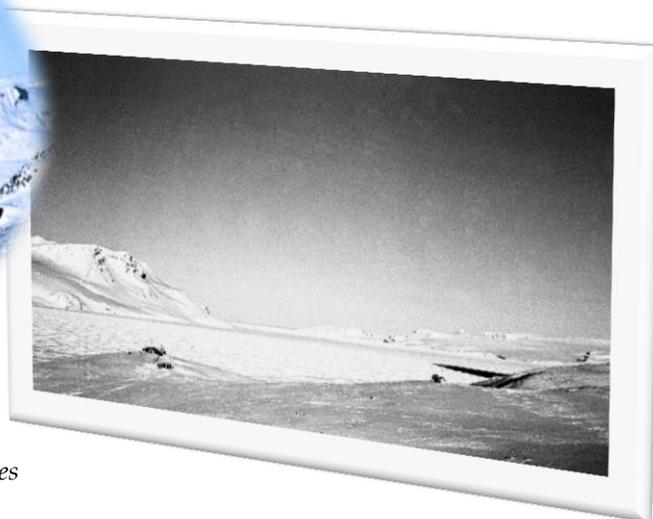
Did some printing this evening; some good moonlight shots.

## Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June

On met. Sea ice now 18in thick.



*Hut and Bay in winter*



*Fastice out to the Gates*

# Features

Rob and Chris busy fitting a metal bar in place of the cow catcher on the spare dog sledge. Geoff having finished triangulating is playing with his bike. Tink of course is very busy feeding the pups and Venus who is now being taken away from the little ones for part of the day. Tink and Al have been putting in plenty of work these last few days on the stats and should have the CLIMAT ready tomorrow.

Mean temp 10.4°F Max 37°F Min -14°F

*F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st June to 30th June 1958*

*Base G - Admiralty Bay 1st to 30th June 1958*

*During the first half of the month the weather was so bad that there was little or no chance for outside work. The lowest temperature recorded during the month was minus 14.*

*Sea ice is now fit for sledging and training of the second dog team was started taking surplus stores to the old hut. A rendezvous was made with the sledging party to replace Nokton and Zenon with fresh dogs.*

*On the 3rd of the month Venus gave birth to a litter of seven - three dogs and three bitches surviving. D. R. Bell was in attendance.*

*Mid winter was celebrated with an excellent meal cooked by G. Monk. The sledge party returned on the 27th.*

## **Tuesday 1st July**

The stats were duly finished by this evening and the CLIMAT worked out. The mean temp for the month is the lowest for June on record from here in eleven years and in fact, except for one instance, is the lowest of any month of the year during that time.

Since July and August are usually the coldest months of the year we are going well to create a record. The weather is still very stable, with high pressure, low temps below zero most of the time, but quite foggy and windy, much to Gray's annoyance as he wants to do an astro-fix.

FIDS programme this evening, very poor reception though we had it on the Bush with engines off again.

## **Wednesday 2nd July**

On advice from Gray, I coated the new lashings on the spare sledge with glue today, he also suggests linseed oil as the wood is very dry.

Busy outside getting snow blocks for the kitchen and bathroom tanks this morning, rather taters! Gray has been shut in his office these last few days, I thought he was working out his obs.

## **Thursday 3rd July**

Weather still much the same although the temp has gone above zero today for the first time this week. After gradually chilling a spare clock and drum for the tide gauge, by moving it from room to room inside, I put it out in the screen this morning and with luck it looks as if it might keep going.

This afternoon I went out to the tide gauge to see if it needed adjusting before fitting the clock, only to find the attachment of the arm to the recording instrument had come adrift. Geoff and I have been trying to fix it this evening but everything seemed to be against us and we packed it in till tomorrow. Geoff has gone to bed with a further grievance against 'b.....y scientists' and a cut hand and left me to do the obs at midnight.

## **Friday 4th July**

Made new part for the tide gauge and with Al's help went out and fixed it up this afternoon, perhaps we shall be able to get this functioning at last.

Tink and Rob were going to ring some sheathbills but after they'd done one gave up as Tink complained of stomach ache, over eating again no doubt. The only news of the missing party from 'Y' is that search parties have been told not to venture far on the sea ice, for fear of further breaking out.

## **Saturday 5th July**

Still very little scrubbing out getting done, water was freezing on the deck near the outer wall in the living room.

It being a clear day Al and I set off immediately after lunch with six boxes of dog pemmican on the big sledge and an eight dog team and drove round to Mackellar Depot over the sea ice. We managed to relay them part way up the hill as well and arrived back at base a little after dark. Al drove out and I drove back, a grand new experience and I am now looking forward to my coming trip more than ever. Despite temps of about -12°F all day and the subsequent frosting up of our beards we felt not a bit cold at any time in fact it was extremely pleasant to be out.

# Features



*South from the Hut in Winter*

## **Sunday 6th July**

On met, Gray cook,  
Al gash hand Last night  
min temp -17°F, lowest bar one  
recorded here. Finished off gash  
hand work that didn't get done  
yesterday.

Rob staying in bed as he has a sore throat and Chris is having some trouble with a crown in one of his teeth.

## **Monday 7th July**

Chris, Tink and I went over the hill to the depot this morning to do some carrying up to the top of Depot Hill. Took Spud and Tex, intending to haul up on the manhaul sledge. Spud took the first opportunity to slide away but was caught and kept on a lead till we got to the depot at the bottom. While we were loading the sledge the wily old devil saw his opportunity and was away back over the top so we had to manage without him, a pity as one more dog would have made it quite an easy pull. Good old Tex pulled like a whole team as usual, in fact on anything near level he took it on his own and we just managed to keep pace with him. In this way we got three boxes to the top, then came back on the sea ice in time for a beer before an excellent dinner, to which we did ample justice.

Tink has now joined the 'old crocks' with a strained back.

## **Tuesday 8th July**

The cold spell seems to have left us, temp went up to 25°F yesterday but soon came down again although only to about 10°F.

Gray is busy adjusting his theodolite in preparation for an astro-fix when we get a clear night.

FIDS programme, good reception but no score to us, Gray was hoping for his message before he goes out again.

## **Wednesday 9th July**

On met. I did last month's sunshine records, a simple job as there wasn't any. Put the clock in the tide gauge, seems to be going OK.

## **Thursday 10th July**

A fine clear day, the sun is getting quite near now, a few more days and we will be seeing it again. Al and I did a balloon this afternoon, the first for several weeks.

Rob helped Gray with his astro-fix, quite a chilly job as it takes some five hours. In all they took readings on 16 stars, but unfortunately the temp rose 12°F in a few minutes while they were doing these and as the temp is important in calculating the refraction, Gray doubts if these readings will be very accurate.

## **Friday 11th July**

Chris and Rob skied across the ice to inspect the Hennequin depot. They had intended to carry on to the depot at Pt Thomas but found the going very rough and turned back.

Al and I did another balloon.

In the evening, three small patches of noctilucent cloud were visible in the SW for about 3hrs. Took some colour photos of the sunset with these clouds included.

# Features



Noctilucent Clouds



## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

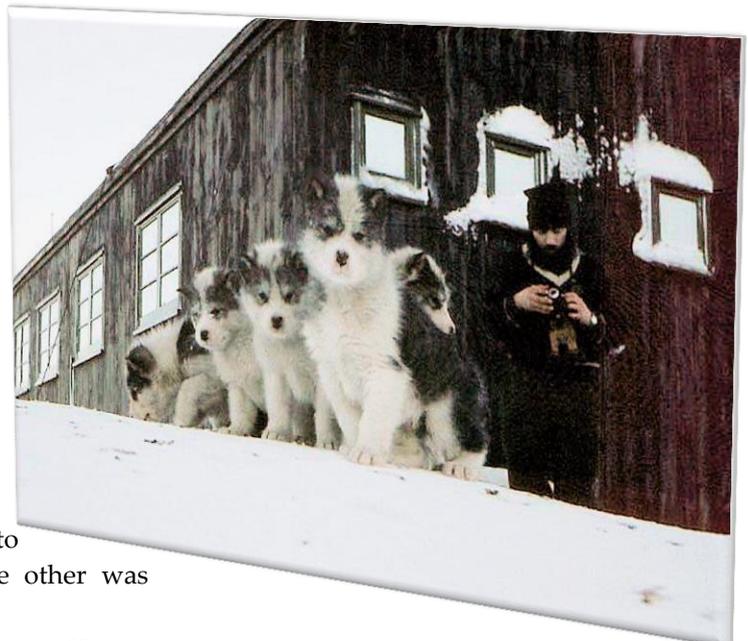
Tink had the pups out for a run for the first time today, of course they were soon surrounded by a battery of cameras.

A more successful scrub out today with somewhat higher temps than the last couple of weeks, but temp has been falling steadily all day to  $-15^{\circ}\text{F}$  at midnight.

Made a new handle for the spare dog sledge but will have to make the right bolts to fit it as we have a very limited supply.

Rob teaching Chris to play chess with interference from Al and Tink at last doing some more of his oil painting with advice from me!

Al and I fixed a decent canvas cover to the instrument base on the tide gauge as the other was



# Features

letting in drift snow and also fixed to poles as guides for the arm to move in as it was blowing about in the wind and spoiling the trace. Rather nippy out there with below zero temps and 20kt wind; working with bare hands was rather a slow and painful business, it only being possible to remove your gloves for about 1/2 a minute at a time, then it takes several minutes to warm them up again.

## Sunday 13th July

Al cook, Gray gash, on met today. A fine clear day, last night's min -19oF (lowest yet) but rising slightly all today.

Chris and Rob made another excursion across the ice to Camp glacier and Ullman depots. The first was in rather a poor state and the second they couldn't find but since the Camp Glacier one was laid in 1949 that's only to be expected and the Ullman one is probably buried in snow at the moment.

The sun came back over the Plateau today for about quarter of an hour.

Managed to find two bolts of the right length for the sledge handle and finished that job off. Found a dead sheathbill amongst the ice ridges along the shore it was one we had ringed, but there was no sign of any cause of death.

## Monday 14th July

Temp right up today to 19<sup>o</sup>F that's a 38<sup>o</sup> rise in as many hours. Then a cold front in the evening and back down below zero in about an hour.

Was hoping to start recordings on tide gauge today but strong wind and a heavy drift causing bad visibility made this rather impracticable.

Surprise! Surprise! Rob and Chris went out to feed dogs and found Debbie pupping. She had had one which of course was dead and after being put in the Square Box she eventually had eight but all died.

For several reasons this is perhaps just as well, as we have our hands pretty full with Venus' family. Debbie hasn't been fed up and doesn't look to have any milk which would have meant hand feeding and she is really too young to have become a mother as she is only nine months old. She couldn't have been much bigger than our little ones when we first saw her at Signy, anyway this explains why she wouldn't run on the sledge team, but who did it? that's the mystery.

Fixed twenty snow crystals today.

## Tuesday 15th July

Tink's birthday. Strong winds building up to gale in the afternoon fairly heavy snow and heavy drift all day with temp 5<sup>o</sup> to -10<sup>o</sup>F. Rather a pleasant birthday for Tink as he's on met today!

I completed sledge by fitting the lashing line and main haul to which the trace is shackled

Gray deeply immersed in his astro computations in a corner of the living room from which he suddenly rushes every few hours for a time check on the wireless for his chronometer.

Al produced the ingredients for Tink's birthday and Geoff contributed a bottle of port.

Gray heard his message clearly on FIDS programme and Al's is coming up next week.

## Wednesday 16th July

Gale died down early this morning and weather cleared sufficiently for me to go out on the ice for this week's measurements, now 27" thick and well covered with snow to a depth of up to 3ft. This is heavily drifted and very soft making walking very hard going, also a thick snow cover seems to affect the surface of the ice as it is now very soft and slushy. Sea ice seldom becomes very hard, as the salt in the water crystallises out and a certain amount is pushed out of the ice to the surface where it mixes with the snow covering and the top layer of ice to form a soft slush only freezing completely in very low temps.

Tink has been busy all day making a new part for the gramophone pick up, it was all right until he touched it then it went wrong as do most things he gets his paws on.

Rob busy typing out the base diary as copies have to be sent out each year.

The pups are six weeks old today and all weigh about 12lbs each.

A fine day, temp still below zero and going down in the evening.

Geoff went out for some exercise on skis this morning, since he can't get his bike going to carry him. Rob and Chris skied to La Plaza in afternoon and inspected the tide gauge on their return only to find the clock stopped again the arm lifted so high as to have run the pen off the bottom of the chart. The arm doesn't seem to be rising and falling properly but staying high and getting progressively higher, it seems probable that the ice sheet is moving due to pressure from the glacier and is moving away from the weight on the bottom.

# Features

Rob and Gray out tonight doing another astro-fix, again another chilly night for them. Well they've just walked in having done eight stars, lowest temp read during the fix -14°F .

## Friday 18th July

Tink has formed a run for the pups, by blocking off both ends of the space between the hut and snow drift along the front, so that the door from the porch where they live opens out onto this.

Gray is now busier still on his astro comps.

Chris and Rob wandering around on skis and Tink has fetched down some snow-shoes and is trying his hand at this complicated way of walking. Still I suppose it is easier than sinking several feet in the soft snow.

## Saturday 19th July

On met. During this cold calm weather we have heavy hoar frost most of the time and today I noticed frost crystals in suspension in the air. Too cold for much scrubbing out again, round about -14°F all day.

Tink went skiing this afternoon, he lasted one run downhill, ended in a big blur of limbs and broken skis.

## Sunday 20th July

Chris cook, Rob gash hand, Al and I on dogs.

Rob on met today did our 100th balloon for this year. A wind blowing in from the north and temp going up but still fine and clear.

A signal from HE today officially announcing the loss of the boys from 'Y'. I suppose it's just not possible that they can still be alive and yet it's impossible to believe.

## Monday 21st July

Overhauled one of the pyramid tents ready to take out, should be away soon now.

Started on the aurora report for Dr Paton, Edinburgh University. Although we haven't seen any, a full account of when we haven't has to be made.

Al is typing out several copies of his sledging met report, Tink is making a new lid for the bathroom tank and Rob has been up to Sparrow House and shovelled out some of the snow gradually getting in there.

Everyone taxing their brains this evening to think of names for the pups.

Al and I dug two ice measuring holes and marked them with old food boxes in the hope that they won't freeze solid.

## Tuesday 22nd July

Gray, Rob and Chris over to the depot carrying today. I stayed behind as I seem to have jarred my back when I was tipped out of a chair the other night. Carried on with some more of the Aurora report after making three attempts to do a balloon. The first tore its tail off, the second had a hole in and finally we got one away successfully only to lose it in about the only bit of low cloud at 4,000ft.

Al heard his family tonight on FIDS programme, also heard that the news from 'Y' has been made public.

## Wednesday 23rd July

Medical sked this morning for Tink's back and for me, Mine seems to be some stomach upset and the doc has ordered me to bed and put me on a light diet.

By the sound of things from where I am Tink, with Geoff's doubtful assistance, is getting stores down from the loft.

## Thursday 24th July

Still in bed, getting rather hungry. Medical sked in evening with our family doctor, Dave Jones at 'F', he says to stay put tomorrow and see him again.

Geoff, Gray, Chris and Rob, over the hill carrying stuff up to the depot, found it pretty hard going with the present warm temp on top of the deep soft snow .

A disappointment today, signal to say only bases available for Al and I next year are 'G', 'H', and 'B'; bang go our hopes of getting south of the circle at 'Y' or more sledging at Hope Bay.

## Friday 25th July

Still in bed feeling practically fit again except for being half starved.

Geoff trying to teach Gray to ride his bike but they can't find a surface suitable to drive on.

# Features

Tink has removed the pups to the square box, about time too, they're getting very noisy besides smelling somewhat in this tropical weather we've got. Temp now up in the 30's.

Doc says I can get up now and start eating again, thank goodness.

## **Saturday 26th July**

Waited till scrub out had finished then got up. Unfortunately weather's not suitable to go out.

Al and Geoff took all afternoon to feed the dogs, the seal pile being well buried by now and frozen solid.

Celebrated Chris' niece's birthday (again) and Prince Charles being made Prince of Wales.

## **Sunday 27th July**

Rob cook, Chris gash hand.

A horrible day, blowing a gale, temp way up in the 30's and even raining. Everything is running with water.

## **Monday 28th July**

Cold front in the morning, now everywhere is like a skating rink.

Al and I fed dogs on pemmican as we are getting rather short on seal now, have been hoping to get a few up through the ice but haven't seen any yet.

Spent some time cutting one seal up ready for the next feed as this is quite a long job now they are all frozen in. As soon as Gray does one more star fix we shall be away, so everything is now being assembled ready to go.

## **Tuesday 29th July**

On met. Al and I went out to our measuring holes in the ice and then took a small sledge out and fetched in the tide gauge instrument and box as it had collapsed in the gale on Sunday. then had some fun tobogganing on the sledge.

Some fine colour effects in some very high cloud visible before sunset and for a long while after. Wonder if these are mother-of-pearl clouds, which are quite rare and very high, being actually in the stratosphere. A small patch of noctilucent cloud was visible this morning and this is a similar thing.

Geoff's message on FIDS programme tonight, heard his Gran has at last died, so big celebrations.

## **Wednesday 30th July**

Fetches in the tide gauge as we have decided either to postpone the attempt or try it out at another site.

Chris skied over to Ullman Range to look for the depot there, came back with news that depot has apparently been used up but he had found three seal. Tink and he immediately set off to secure their fate, returning at dinner time with some fresh liver and heart. The seals can be sledged back anytime.

Gray and Rob started to do a star fix but a wind sprang up and it has clouded over so they've had to abandon it. Pity, we could have got away on Friday if this fix were finished. Gray needs one day after a fix for time checks.

Geoff has actually been riding his bike about, this can't last !!

Sunny day again, gales, temp above freezing. Al and I were going out to collect the three seals on the dog sledge but had to cancel that. Did various indoor work, including stats, instead.

Tink busy mending the Square Box window which has just blown out (or in).

Excellent mixed grill of seal steak, liver and bacon.

Mean temp 8.8°F Max 38°F Min -19°F

*F.I.D.S. Periodical Report 1st June to 31st July June 1958*

*Base G - Admiralty Bay 1st to 31st July*

*The weather was cold at first with minus 19 temps. but later became much warmer, the maximum temperature recorded being 38. There were several gales during the month.*

*G. Davey and R. Stephens carried out astro-fixes whenever the weather was suitable. Several trips were made to Plateau Depot with stores in preparation for a sledge journey when the astro-fixing has been completed. The tide gauge was dismantled because it was disturbed by pressure ice.*

*Three crabeater seals were shot. Some sheathbills were ringed.*

*(to be continued)*

# 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

## **GORDON HOWKINS 1919 - 2016**

### **Operation Tabarin**

**By Jo Rae (Assistant archivist, BAS, 1983-2018)**

Gordon was, as far as I know, the last surviving member of Operation Tabarin (the war-time British expedition from which FIDS and BAS evolved). He died last autumn, though sadly we didn't learn of it until this spring.

I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Tabarin 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion held at BAS Cambridge in 1993. Gordon was interviewed for the BAS Oral History Project in 2003, available via the BAS Club website.

Born on 3 Oct 1919, Gordon Howkins was educated at Mexborough Grammar School and Kings College, London, where he took a general science degree. Because he was allowed entry at 2<sup>nd</sup> year level, he managed to take his finals before he was called up in 1940 to serve during World War Two. He volunteered for the Fleet Air Arm and, after failing his flying training due to eye problems, trained as a meteorological observer.

Gordon was posted to Scapa Flow to join HMS *Rodney*, on the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of a passage to the Naval Meteorological Station at Stanley, Falkland Islands. *En route* to Halifax, Nova Scotia, the *Rodney* was diverted to assist in intercepting the German battleship *Bismark*, after the sinking of HMS *Hood*.

There was a call for volunteers and Gordon, a supernumerary, was in the cordite handling area during the attack. *Rodney* continued to Canada, from whence Howkins took passage via Trinidad to Stanley.

He served there for 18 months, providing met observations for weather forecasts for allied shipping.

Whilst there he met his future wife, Olga, at a local dance. They became engaged before he returned to the UK for officer training at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

After that there were several months with the Naval Meteorology Branch in Berkley

Square, writing a report on Falkland Islands meteorology. At that time he was asked if he'd join a top secret expedition – the only thing he could be told was that it was likely to involve a few days in Stanley – "Thanks very much!", he said, "I'll go".

So Gordon became one of the original Tabarin team, joining the HMS *Bransfield* at Tilbury, trans-shipping when she was condemned at Portsmouth, and finally sailing aboard the *Highland Monarch* from Avonmouth to Montevideo. Here Gordon bought yards of cream satin for Olga's wedding dress before the team were picked up by the Falkland Islands Company ship, SS *Fitzroy*.

After a happy reunion with Olga, they sailed a few days later for Deception Island, where Gordon was to winter during 1944. This became Base B, manned by a team of five men, occupying one of the dormitory buildings of the closed whaling station, which Gordon reported as being very comfortable and spacious.

Howkins as met observer undertook 3-hourly observations night and day, though this was cut back after he suffered a grumbling appendix. William Flett, geologist, was base leader and post master; Jock Matheson, handyman; Norman Layther, wireless operator; Charles Smith, cook.

When the Base as relieved the following February, Gordon returned to Stanley, and so ended his time with Tabarin. He was posted back to the Naval Met Station and married Olga in April. His weather forecast for that day was something he was never allowed to forget, as Michael Fish-like, he didn't predict hurricane force winds that caused the event to be postponed!

After a short spell back in the UK following the end of the War, Howkins was invited to a meeting at the Air Ministry to discuss the pros and cons of the Ministry taking over the work of the Navy Met Service in Stanley. More in jest than anything, Gordon offered to run it, and before he knew it was back in Stanley running the FID Meteorological Service as chief

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

meteorological officer. There were challenges to the role as his employer, the Air Ministry Met Office, and the Governor had conflicting priorities for him.

In the end his post was seconded to the Governor and he toured the FIDS bases with Dr Stuart Slessor in 1947. In fact Slessor was to deliver Olga and Gordon's two daughters.

The family returned to the UK in 1956 and Gordon had a distinguished career with the Met Office, retiring in 1979. This included a spell at Heathrow airport, as an upper air forecaster, which led to work as senior forecaster at Bracknell, trying to produce numerical methods of forecasting upper air winds for North Atlantic flights. His method was adopted and a computer used for that work from then on.

Some years later Gordon was tasked with specifying and purchasing a much more powerful computer and the facilities to support it.

His final 5 years with the Met Office was as Assistant Director (Data Processing).

Howkins Inlet, Lassiter Coast, was named after him in 1955 – one of a group of names honouring Antarctic meteorologists.

He was awarded an MBE in 1956.

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## **Dr. NEIL AITKENHEAD 1919 - 2016**

**Geologist Hope Bay 1960-1961**

**By Brian (Tal) Taylor**

I first met Neil, along with fellow geologists Arthur Fraser and Phil Nelson and glaciologist Dennis Arduş when we met at the Department of Geology, University of Birmingham in 1959.

Shortly after graduating, we had all been summoned to attend a pre-Antarctic 'training course' organized by FIDS deputy director and chief geologist Dr. R. J. Adie. Having finished with exams for the foreseeable future and thrilled at the prospect of going to the Antarctic, we were all on cloud nine and looking forward to making a start on a new career in Antarctic research.

Neil, who had participated in a university expedition to Norway (where he had camped on the Jostedalsgreen Ice Cap north of Sognefiord,) brought some polar-type experience to our little group. He never lauded that experience over the rest of us who, with heads down, and a locked door between us and recently returned FIDS

geologists (we were forbidden to fraternize on pain of 'death'), were engaged, hour after hour, day after day, week after week reading bags of background' like, for example, Ellery Anderson's 'Expedition South' (or 'Expedition Mouth' as it was sometimes irreverently referred to), Apsley Cherry-Garrard's 'The Worst Journey in the World' and Hugh R. Mill's 'The Siege of the South Pole'

There was also a half hour lecture by Dr. Adie based on one of his many papers but there was nothing on this course to stimulate the mind and no practical advice on how, for example, to extricate oneself from a crevasse or tie a bowline or a sheepshank and at times, we got up to childish pranks like fighting with ranging poles or drawing 'Welsh Nit Tapestries' on the blackboard.

However, under the circumstances, I think we could be forgiven. Fortunately, our Goon Show sense of humour prevailed over all else (Neil was known as 'Neddy Seagoon').

Eventually, it was time for Dr. Adie to share out amongst us some Antarctic prerequisites such as drawing pen nibs-19 per man and a ball of string - why, because, crikey, without string in the Antarctic, you could become lost!

None of us knew what base we were destined for, although even as young, fresh-faced geologists, our interests were already biased towards a particular branch of the science i.e hard rocks, soft rocks, sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic petrology or palaeontology.

Dr. Adie did attempt to suggest where we might eventually be based, following a long sea voyage. However, we never really knew our final destination until the expedition ship was outside British Territorial Waters when we were permitted to open a brown envelope containing our 'sealed instructions' for the forthcoming field seasons.

Neil, a good all-round geologist, went to Hope Bay and here, initially under the leadership of Neil Orr and then Ian Fothergill, began mapping the Carboniferous Trinity Peninsula Series while Phil Nelson spent his time examining the near-by James Ross Island Volcanic Group.

In the meantime. I was at Fossil Bluff, eastern Alexander Island, enjoying my time amongst a vast array of fossil animals and plants

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

as well as spectacular sandstone dykes and 'Cannon ball' concretions.

Following the successful completion of his tour of duty, Neil returned to the UK and wrote up the results of his fieldwork as a substantial and definitive FIDS Scientific Report and then, his involvement with FIDS concluded.

He joined, what was then called the Institute of Geological Sciences, later renamed the British Geological Survey. Here, always preferring to work outdoors, Neil joined the Survey's field staff and spent the rest of his active life, prior to retirement, mapping various parts of the north of England, coming into the office only (I suspect) in order to fulfill the need to draft and publish the results of his assiduous observations.

A true scientist.

Throughout our respective lives, Neil and I met on several occasions- at meetings of the Antarctic Club or BGS Club- and indeed at BGS which I joined in 1973 although here, we followed divergent paths and instead met up at our respective homes.

Throughout the many years that I have had the pleasure of knowing him, Neil was always been a mild mannered, modest man with a Goon Show sense of humour and fun, an active member of several geological societies and a loyal friend. A keen skier and out and out 'good egg', he will be missed by all those that met him but, of course, most of all by his devoted wife Marion, daughters Helen and Alison (not forgetting Shenna) and grandson.

Finally, it seems fitting that as the Antarctic experience was, by his own admission, the high point of Neil's life, a 16km long glacier should be named after him

## **From Yorkshire Geological Society Paul Hildreth – General Secretary**

You will no doubt have received an earlier notice of the death of our friend, colleague and fellow member **Neil Aitkenhead**.

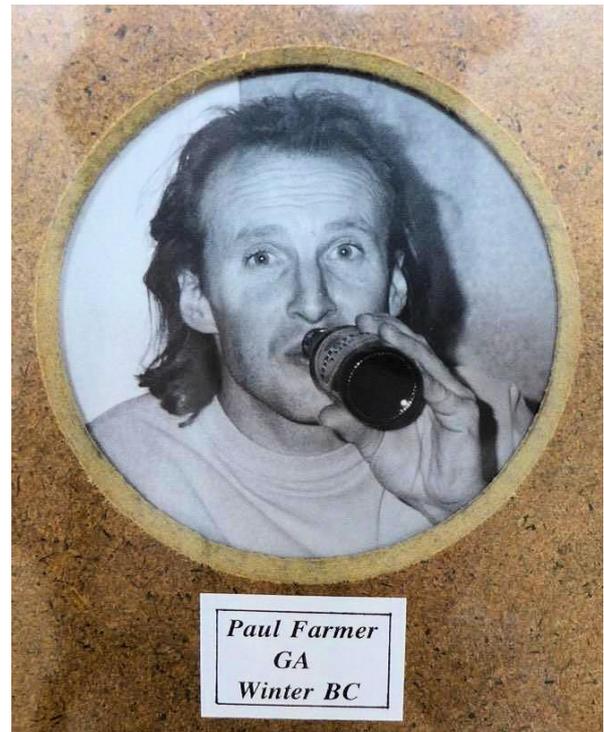
Neil was not only a staunch and loyal supporter of the Yorkshire Geological Society but also gave many years of service on the editorial board, not least as Joint-Editor of the 'Proceedings', with Ian Burgess from 1995 to 1999 and Doug Holliday from 2000 to 2004.

## **PAUL FARMER 1961 - 2017**

**Field Assistant Rothera 1994-1996**

**By Tim Elvin**

Paul Farmer passed away late on Christmas Eve 2017 as a result of complications from Colon Cancer. The previous weekend he had been skiing on a BASI Instructors course in Chamonix.



Paul worked for BAS on & off between September 1992 and March 1999. A summary from his BAS file is as follows:

7/9/92-18/9/92 - Field training in Derbyshire.

3/1/93 - 24/3/93 - FGA Livingston Island with geologist Rob Willan

30/8/93 - 14/12/95 - FGA Rothera 33 months. King Fid on trip South (JCR). Wintered

1994, 1995. Winter BC

1993/94 Foxtrot - NW Palmer Land (with Chris Wareham)

1994/95 - Bravo - Arrowsmith Peninsula & N Palmer Land (with Jane Scarrow)

12/10/98 - 30/3/99 - Field Base Assistant at Halley - new post responsible for field training and coordination. It proved a difficult and over-tasks role.

I first met Paul as at Cambridge in 1993 & so began a friendship that would endure until his untimely death. I have many recollections & wonderful memories of our time down south & find it hard to pick out any one particular

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

incident.

His wry smile & his dry & cutting wit, his absolute professionalism & his loyal friendship helped all on base throughout our first winter together. Climbing on Reptile ridge & Leonie Island, skiing across the sea ice in North Bay, being blown in at Blaiklock Island in a proper Antarctic storm, the quiet days in Phase 3 preparing field units for the following season & listening to his eclectic taste in music are all memories that I will treasure.

Below are some Antarctic memories & stories from those that knew Paul & wintered with him:

## **Gerard Baker**

I very much enjoyed the odd times I was able to get out skiing with Paul and found him a clever witty and charming man, as well as a support to me as I went into my first winter at Rothera. One day I remember in particular was a grim misty day ski up to the caboose for tea and medals- one of the fastest and most exhilarating skis I ever managed.

## **Nigel Dean**

I spent some time with Paul during my time with B.A.S. at Rothera in the early 90's. He was a great guy and helped get some of the less outdoors inclined guys out in to "the field" to experience the true Antarctic experience.

His good humour was always appreciated on base. I am very sorry to hear of his passing but keep good memories of him

## **Paul "Vasco" Thompson**

I have missed being around his unique dry sense of humour over the years... He was a great mate to spend time down south with all those years ago... Adios Sierra Tango Foxtrot...

## **Simon Garrod**

I wintered with Paul back in 1995. I had an incredible time and Paul did a fantastic job of leading the winter team, showing me the ropes, making life fun and forgetting stuff – memories I treasure.

## **Dr Ian Gemmell:**

Paul and I overwintered on Rothera in 1994. I was the base medical officer. We both learned to Telemark ski under the tutelage of Paul Thompson (Vasco).

We shared a tent on a glacier together whilst we awaited permission from Cambridge to continue to Adelaide base after Mick Jones fell through a crevasse bridge with his skidoo. It

never came and we tent shared without moving for about 3 days!

You will have heard of and no doubt seen the pictures of that rescue. During that enforced encampment, I read the book "know your own IQ" by Ejsenk. After I had calculated mine, Paul read it and calculated his whilst I read up on meteorology. At the end of three days, not only did Paul teach me more about meteorology than I had learned from the book, but he beat me in our respective IQ scores!

In our second winter trip we managed to get to Base San Martin - the Argentine base, which caused a certain amount of envy amongst those staying behind.

Paul was a wonderful man and he was fully supportive of me during what became a difficult winter. He was always calm and considered and I was so pleased and envious (for the next winterers) when he was made Base Commander for the following winter.

## **Dr Rob Willan**

We first met at the BAS training conference in autumn 1992, and then at Port Stanley where we had to reorganise all our kit for three months camping and pulk sledging on the mountainous eastern end of Livingston Island. In between times going off to see King Penguins and the Falkland battlefields.

We sailed on the new HMS Endurance, and were moved ship to shore with all our kit by Lynx helicopter. I sat next to Paul in the back of the helo. We could hear the pilot and navigator talking as we skimmed along just below thick stratus with the mountains (up to 1600 m) in the cloud to our right.

We then heard the pilot say, "we can go into this bay and cut across, I'll go to 1500 feet". I mouthed to Paul "the maps in metres! not feet!" and he went "!!", tell him!", so the 'civilian butts in on the military'. We did a very sharp exit out of that bay and resumed the safer but longer route over the sea.

Paul and I spent some time on foot, looking at the shoreline geology, actually he spent a lot of time with the penguins and seals, with a fancy camera. There was one elephant seal colony in a morass of stinking mud, with a fog of water vapour above, and reverberating with the roars of cross bulls, that Paul found to be

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

gruesomely interesting.

Paul was a much better skier than me and I found it really difficult at the end of the day following him, on a rope, descending crevassed glacier, in bendy boots, with a rucksack full of rock samples. After several falls we reversed positions and then the bad language came from him, not me!

Back in camp (a large pyramid tent) after a large meal, and a single malt, or Navy rum, we would either listen to music, or the snowy petrels in the rock crevices above the camp

We then spent a month pulking inland in awkward terrain that was covered in moraine and melt streams, then crevassed to pieces before one was on easy going, so by the end of the month, the pulks and traces were shot to pieces and Paul spent a lot of time bodging repairs, even to broken crampons. Also being maritime, we got the worst combinations of wind, rain, sleet etc. I remember Paul "shouting at the wind" as he coiled ropes. Also after a month in a pup tent declaiming "I'm fed up with camping".

We then had to ferry all our kit plus samples back to our main camp across the moraine and melt streams. Although it was -5, it seemed very still and warm and I think we were a bit dehydrated.

As we walked back to camp in the twilight we saw a very strange sight - an empty beer can, then another. Then one with some beer in. It seemed fresh. We found 20 beer cans scattered near our tent of which two were intact. We realised there had been an airdrop of replacement kit (like crampons) and the aircrew had kindly added a case of beer, but as Paul said the loss of 18 cans "was a crime"!

Our season was aimed at exploring for (this gets technical!), porphyry copper mineralization in the Mt Friedland massif and the extension inland of a 13 km long epithermal vein system I had mapped in previous seasons. We found some indications but not really convincing. Then in the last week, I spotted a huge rounded boulder on the beach, about the size of a man food box, of granodiorite criss-crossed with multiple veinlets and alteration. That would be ideal (I thought) to have slabbed. Paul and I heaved it across the beach ("bloody beaker, haven't you got enough") and it just fitted into

one of those collapsible rock boxes. It caused a bit of consternation on our steeply shelving beach uplift, heaving it across the inflatable sides of the RIB.

Our uplift by the James Clark Ross, on a steeply shelving shingle shore was "interesting" in that the first boat overturned in the surf. So we had to wait a day.

I got it slabbed and some slabs are laid as an inlaid top to an oak bureau in the hall, (an very pretty it looks), and one slabbed half of the boulder is in a rockery by our back door. It's a good memento.

## **Tudor Morgan**

I wintered at Rothera with Paul, it was my first and his second and I took over from Paul as Winter Base Commander so we spent lots of time together as he shared his experience of how to keep the base going over the winter.

One of my lasting funny memories of Paul was a CD that kept on continuously getting played in the bar Tubular Bells-Mike Oldfield!) that he did not like and was getting rather annoyed with and fed up of hearing, of course the more it annoyed the more it got played, but Paul stepped in a bit like Basil Faulty and said enough is enough, confiscated the CD and locked it in the base safe and pronounced that it would be kept there for the rest of the winter which was a long time. Whenever anybody asked they got a straight NO!

**Richard Hanson** recalled the Story of the JCR's final call to Rothera in 1994 which I shall re-tell!

The Bransfield had been disabled by a fire & it was touch & go if we would get our winter Beer order! It did however arrive & on the last night all on Base & ship were making inroads into it.

There was a certain amount of dissatisfaction about the lack of comfortable lounge furniture in the bar for our winter & I had the idea to liberate the sofa from the Chief scientists cabin on the JCR (we knew it was there from sailing down as that had become the unofficial Fids lounge on our passage down). I recruited Paul Farmer, Paul Thompson & Stu Bell to help me with the removal. All went well until we tried to get the sofa through the door only to realise that it had been built in situ & would not fit (despite our best efforts)

We abandoned the task & sadly left a fair bit of mess & damage. Richard Hanson on

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

returning to his cabin did a wonderful job of covering up most of the damage & did not make a song & dance about it. Both Paul's had been spotted & were hauled up in front of the Captain & First officer to apologise, which they did without dobbing Stu & myself in. (True friends).

It is only 25 years after the incident that I can own up!

After BAS, Paul finished his Guides Training & worked all around the World as a highly qualified & competent Alpine Guide dividing his time between Chamonix & the UK. He married Alex in 2010 & they divided their time between Over Haddon in the Peak District & Sevoz at the bottom of the Chamonix valley. His Funeral took place on 15th January 2017 & was attended by over 200 people from all the different strands of Paul's life including over 20 Ex Fids.

## Alistair Taylor

Oh, sad news, indeed. I first met Paul in May of 1984. We were new instructors at Loch Eil Outward Bound. (Not much older than the teenagers we were instructing....) Staff training was a great hoot. Sailing out West towards Isle of Coll, and climbing in the Cuillins of Skye.

Paul and I did the Crack of Doom together, if memory serves correct. What a wonderful guy.

We crossed paths every now and then since. Always a pleasure to see him. Great to hear he was enjoying the mountains to the end. All sympathy and best wishes to family.

## Ian Gemmell

Paul was a great FGA during Rothera winter 1994 and he had a calmness about him which effortlessly defused awkward situations.

A strong advocate of vegetarianism, he 'broke' during a midwinter BBQ and devoured multiple chicken legs, sausages and bacon burgers only to revert to type the following day.

Paul, Tim and I skidoo across to Porquois Pas island only to be holed up for three days during a whiteout, taking refuge in Blaiklock hut. Later that season we managed to get to San Martine and Stonington, regrettably in the first winter without the dogs.

Paul was a great man and will be sadly missed. My condolences to Alex.

## ROBERT IAN MACNEE 1937-2017 (known as Ian Macnee)

**Radar Technician – Argentine Islands 1965**

### Memories of Ian Macnee by Jeremy Thoday

Ian arrived on base in January 1965, one of nine newcomers. It was an active time unloading stores and settling into base life. This he did as well as getting into his role manning the radar each day.

At 12 noon GMT he had to track the weather balloon/radio sonde which had been launched. The radar was manually controlled and needed skill in following the balloon. The radar was not designed for the Antarctic, having previously been used in the Pacific and came complete with air conditioning!

Being Goodies man I kept Ian, who was one of the five smokers supplied with cigarettes, there being a plentiful supply

In August he joined Barry Murton and myself on a fourteen day jolly which included making the first ascent of Mount Shackleton. On reaching the summit we were observed from the base by Ken Darnell, who using a large mirror as a heliograph successfully signalled us.

Soon it was January when Ian's year was up.

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## REV ALLAN I MACARTHUR: 1928-2017 Meteorologist South Georgia 1951 and Argentine Islands 1952.

### By Allan Wearden – taken from Oral History Interview

Allan passed away on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017.

He had been born on the Isle of Lewis on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1928 being brought up a Gaelic speaker. After local schooling he did a BA at Glasgow University.

Then he returned to the Islands for work, He was also a dance band leader. During one gig there was an invasion by a Church of Scotland Minister to talk to the young people, which at that time was unheard of, and he actually wanted to sort this Minister out! He then felt a calling to the church but he wasn't ready for at that stage.

Instead joined the Air Ministry for Met training, in London, which later led to a posting

# Obituaries “In Memoriam” Tributes

to the airport in Stornoway. Whilst in Stornaway he was recruited to join FIDS, so in fact, he went to the Antarctic to avoid joining the church!

He was actually



interviewed by Vivian Fuchs to join FIDS and as the ship had sailed, had a 5 stop flight, and at one point was delayed due to flying with 2 dud engines, to join the Biscoe in Montevideo.

Arriving in Stanley it reminded him of Uist and felt at home due to several Gaelic speakers being part of the Island McLeod clan!

He was due to winter at Deception Island, but due to personnel problems at Admiralty Bay he just spent an interesting summer of 3 months there with plenty time to discover an old stock of whisky and rum which they tested and found to be perfectly drinkable!

They had a small dog team with the leader being Panda who once stole their supper of ham, although it seems the BC made him suffer for it. Another dog, Jeeves, it seems ended up in London zoo! He was also the main supplier of fish to their larder, enjoying taking a boat out on his own to this end.

Due to Allan being able to read Morse he was sent to South Georgia for the winter of 1951, with the wintering team being Dick Laws, Arthur Mansfield, Ian Biggs and Jack Newing. This ended up being the last FIDS party there till 1970 as the Government took over the following year.

He enjoyed the winter there even running into 3 old school friends amongst the whalers at Leith Harbour. He got to experience reindeer hunts and the odd fishing trip with the whalers and learnt to ski, although not attempting their ski jump at Grytviken. He saw the winter sports as a way in which the Fids were

sometimes utilised by the customs to help search boats for illicit alcohol!

On leaving South Georgia he sailed south calling at Hope Bay, where the Biscoe went aground, and the Fids were fired upon when unloading the new base, by the Argentinians who refused permission for them to land. HMS Burghead Bay arrived sending marines ashore to sort out the situation!

For his second winter he was part of a 4 man team at Argentine Islands consisting of Petts, Kelley, Thyer and himself. There should have also been Jock Tait but he got a bad case of seal finger and was taken out.

They found they had made a big mistake in storing their beer under their bunks, as it froze and was lost!

He was now Senior Met, which meant extra work and with being only 4 of them this restricted their travels although they did have several adventures over the winter.

Arriving back in Southampton the ship's company ended up in taking part in the Spithead Review, which he found very interesting.

Back home in the Islands he found that his parents were now involved in the movement of God revival. After trying some teaching, he ended going back to Glasgow to take a BA in Divinity and in the end finding himself becoming a Minister after all!

He did find his time in the Antarctic was an advantage in talking to people, part of his parish often including oil platforms.

There has a long obituary in the Scotsman with some excerpts here...

'Rev Allan Ian MacArthur, minister. Born 22 May 1928 at Marvig, Isle of Lewis. Died 30 November 2016 in Edinburgh, aged 88.

Allan Ian MacArthur was born at Marvig, Lewis, where his father was school headmaster. His route to the ministry was circuitous and included a three-year stint in the 1950s with the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (nowadays the British Antarctic Survey) in the South Atlantic and South Pole.

Then came graduation from Glasgow University, followed by a period teaching English, History and Geography in the city's east end. The call to the ministry came in the late 1960s, prompting the rest of the family to relocate

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

to Stornoway while he studied for his Divinity degree in Glasgow.

These were tough times financially, with two adults and seven children having to survive on a student grant for three years. In 1973 he was ordained and inducted to Lochcarron and Applecross, one of the biggest parishes in Scotland in terms of land mass, and remained there until retirement in 1998.

He was, however, much in demand post-retirement for church services, weddings and funerals and would always oblige if at all possible. He was a frequent commissioner to the Kirk's General Assembly and sat on some of its key committees in Edinburgh.

Over and above his pastoral duties, he was closely involved with numerous organisations that had a direct impact on his community. These included membership of Ross and Cromarty District Council, the Crofters Commission and Albyn Housing Society, which was vital in bringing much-needed housing to Strathcarron.'

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## **BRIAN PIMM-SMITH ---1942-2018** **Metman – Adelaide 1964**

BAS received a call from Mrs Pimm-Smith who wanted to let everyone know that her husband, Brian, had passed away 2 weeks ago. Brian was a Club Member and wintered at Adelaide Island as a meteorologist in 1964.

*Published in the Isle of Man Today on 13th February 2018(Distributed in Isle of Man)*

*Pimm-Smith. Brian 76, died peacefully at the Hospice Isle of Man on Wednesday, 7th February. He is survived by his loving wife Barbara, his son Julian and his grandchildren Charlotte and Henry. A world adventurer, teacher, businessman, epic driver and tower of strength, Brian found a true home in the northern Isle of Man.*

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## **BRIAN BARNES ----2018** **Met man Halley Bay 1965 Argentine Islands 1966** **Phil Cotton**

A note has appeared on Andy Smith's Zfids web site, which indicates that he has been notified of the death of Brian Barnes. Brian was a

met man at Halley Bay in 1965 and at Argentine Islands in 1966.

I am sorry to hear that he has died. I found him always a willing volunteer and an uncomplaining worker.



*Photo from Phil Cotton*

*Brian Barnes (and Harry Rogers) working on what appears to be the Saturday morning gash run. They are lowering empty bins down the "IGY Shaft" after a trip to wherever the dump and bonfire was that day. It's plainly "hot" weather, so I would guess at February 1965 - certainly before the Autumn journey of 1965, because Harry was out in the field in March and April 1965, leaving a certain Tony Haynes as the only cook on base.*

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## **IAN HAMPTON ---2018** **Physiologist Hope Bay 1959-1960**

Delyth Hampton contacted us about the death of Ian Hampton.

'As some of you may be aware, Dad passed away in St James's Hospital, High Dependency Unit in Leeds on Saturday March 10th from acute severe pancreatitis. We are desperately sad to lose such a wonderful man, a fantastic father, brother and granddad and a true rock of strength in our family. There's a big hole in our lives now.



### **From Ted Clapp**

Very Very sad to read of Ian's passing...'a great Base Member'  
...Ted Clapp ex Hope Bay 1959'

# Obituaries "In Memoriam" Tributes

Dr. ALEXANDER CUMMING ---2018  
MO. Argentine Islands 1959

From son Charlie Cumming

My dad unfortunately passed away after a short illness.

MARK VALLANCE 1946-2018  
GA and BC Halley 1971-1972

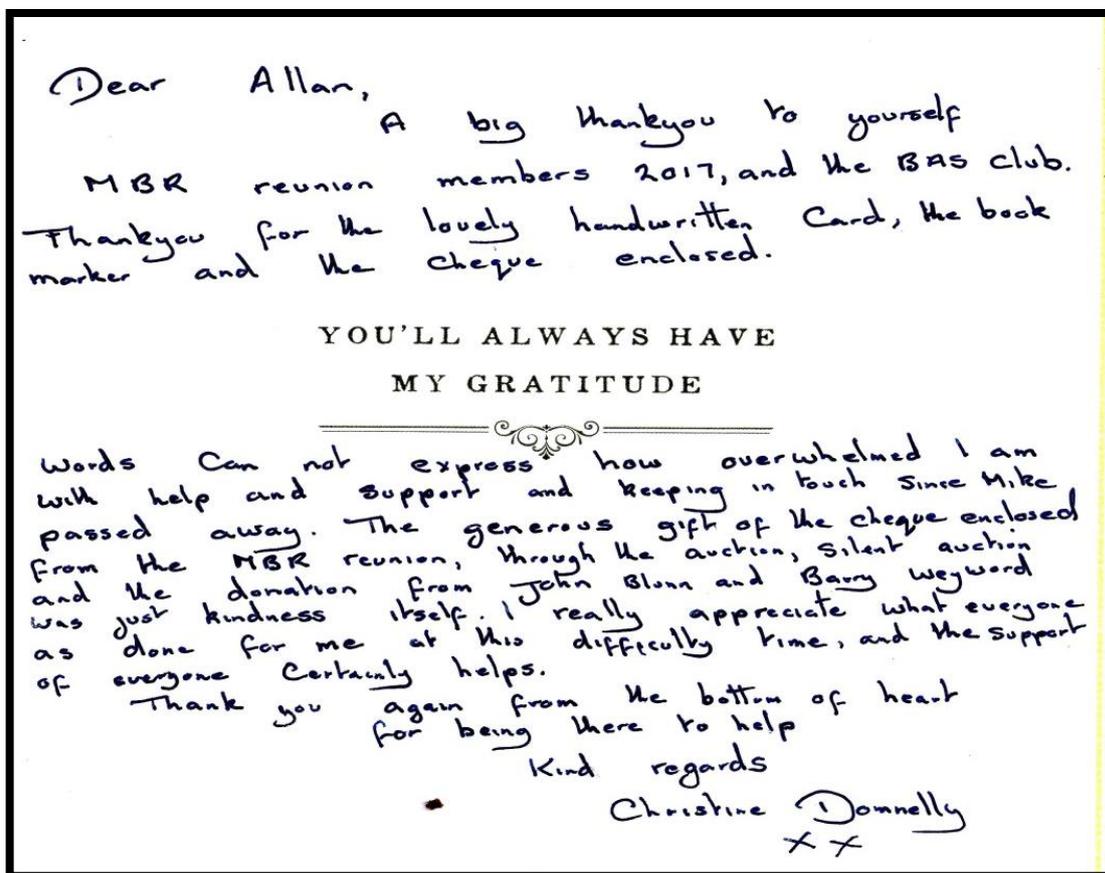
Club member Terry Tallis passed on the news that Mark Vallance, who wintered at Halley in the '70s, passed away.

Terry also sent a link to an [obituary on the UKC website](#).

Mark passed away on 19th April aged 72 following a long battle with Parkinson's disease..

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A THANK YOU (reference Mike Butler)



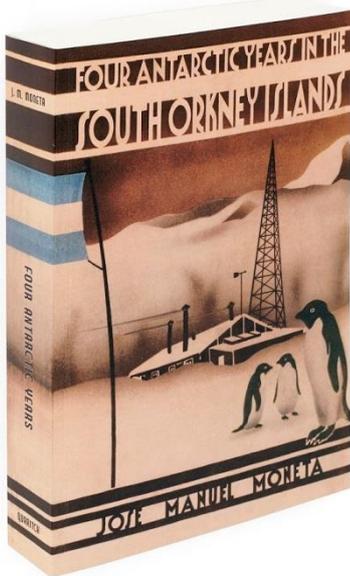
Editor:- members are requested to send any memories etc of any colleague/friend mentioned above

# Book Reviews

The intention of the book reviews is to review any books written by Ex-Fids and any books that may be of interest to Club members. All books must be related 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 a book written by themselves can advertise the sale of the book for free

## FOUR ANTARCTIC YEARS IN THE SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS

A Translation by Kathleen Skilton and Kenn Back of '*Cuatro Años en las Orcadas del Sur*', annotated and edited by Bob Headland.



José Manuel Moneta, 2017.  
ISBN: 978-0-9955192-0-6 --- 440 pages. £50.00.  
Bernard Quaritch Ltd,  
London.  
[www.quaritch.com/books/U39](http://www.quaritch.com/books/U39)

**Reviewed by Keith Holmes**

Throughout his adult life, José Manuel Moneta (who lived from 1900 to 1973) was committed to the creation of an Argentinian Antarctic presence based on a solid reputation for continuous scientific observation since 1904 at the Orcadas base on Laurie Island in the South Orkney Islands. He spent four winters there as a meteorologist and base leader (1923, 1925, 1927, 1929), and in 1939 he published an account of them as the book *Cuatro Años en las Orcadas del Sur*. Over the years to 1963, he revised and updated this in eleven further editions to make it a comprehensive history of the base itself.

Credit for this first English edition goes to Bob Headland, who first encountered the Spanish text of it during his visit to Laurie Island, and instantly appreciated what a significant contribution it was to Antarctic history. Over many years, and with positive support from Jose's family, Bob nurtured a splendid English translation, initially by Kathleen Skilton, and with later refinement by Kenn Back. He himself added scores of very useful footnotes, arranged for the original photographs to be upgraded, and sponsored several helpful maps, all to a very high standard, which Quaritch have matched in the high physical quality of the book. This is a very professional achievement by all concerned.

Moneta's account of his first winter (1923) at Orcadas is described with remarkable elegance and freshness in about two-hundred pages, and gives an excellent picture, not only of the physical surroundings, but also of the trials and pleasures of sharing primitive and cramped conditions with four companions. They had no electricity and no radio. Moneta's second winter, in 1925, is covered in far fewer pages and it includes a moving description of their bitter disappointment at the team's failure to set up a radio station. By contrast his third winter, when they achieved this goal, was more fully and happily described. His fourth seems to have been a bit of an anti-climax.

Nevertheless, the writing is excellent, and the descriptions of how primitive the base itself was, and how fascinated Moneta was with the natural surroundings make for a very good read, although, with a daunting cover price of £50, an expensive one.

Although Moneta had no political axe to grind in this book, he did comment that it took many years to awaken the Argentine government to its Antarctic neighbourhood, and in retrospect it is rather surprising how haphazard their involvement was. It was, for example, the Department of Meteorology, (rather than that of overseas affairs) that took up the offer by William Speirs Bruce to share, and eventually take over, the facilities which he had established during the southern winter of 1903 for his *Scotia* Expedition. It was also they who maintained responsibility for the base throughout Moneta's four separate winter sojourns in the 1920s, and before then the majority of winter staff had been nationals of other countries.

Furthermore, for many years, the winter personnel had to rely as much upon the whaling industry for access to Laurie Island as they did on the Argentine fleet. The essence of this was outlined some years ago by

# Book Reviews

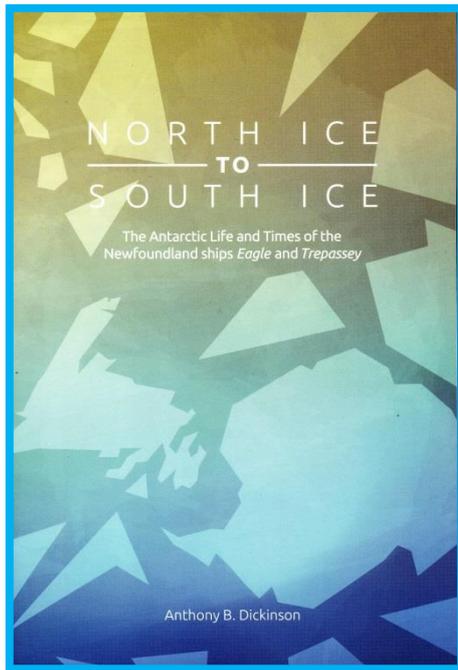
Ian Hart in his two splendid books on the southern whaling industry ("PESCA", and "Whaling in the Falkland Islands Dependencies") and Moneta's personal experience now adds a very human dimension to those voyages.

He reflects that the sea-journeys to and from Laurie Island were, without doubt, the scariest part of his ventures, and he describes several of them in detail. His first voyage from South Georgia was made aboard the superannuated catcher *Rosita*, and his description of it ably supports the understated comment by Ian Hart (PESCA page 205) that "the voyage south in the cramped conditions of small sealing and whaling ships in some of the stormiest seas of the world must not have been the most comfortable of journeys".

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## 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 Newfoundland, Canada

(<http://drcpublishingnl.com>)

Or through the author ([adickins@mun.ca](mailto:adickins@mun.ca)) if a personalized copy is required. The cost is \$C20 plus shipping, air or surface as required.

#### Reviewed by Peter Bird

Anthony Dickinson has lived in Newfoundland since 1969 and, having done a stint on South Georgia as a sealing inspector-biologist, gained a PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute on the history and practices of sealing in the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. His subsequent books on Canadian whaling and history have won awards in Canada. He is therefore ideally placed and qualified to write this history of the *Eagle* and the *Trepassey* and their contributions to the setting up of Port Lockroy and Hope Bay.

Dickinson has helpfully summarised the topics he has covered in the nine chapters of this book as follows:

- Chapter I outlines the geopolitics of the Falkland Islands and Dependencies; the claims to these lands by various nations; and incursions into the Dependencies in the early part of World War II which led to the voyage of the *Eagle*.
- Chapter II gives the Crown's response through the fielding of Operation Tabarin.
- Chapter III summarises Newfoundland's maritime contribution to polar exploration and commerce up to WWII as a factor in the selection of *Eagle* and her crew.
- Chapter IV covers the charter of the ship and the trials and tribulations of the voyage to the Falklands.
- Chapter V describes *Eagle's* contribution while in Antarctica and the events which caused her premature departure.
- Chapter VI addresses the selection of the *Trepassey* and her crew, the resupply of the existing bases and the establishment of new ones.
- Chapter VII deals with the second voyage of the *Trepassey* and her replacement.
- Chapter VIII is about huskies.
- Chapter IX follows up on the early bases and the current activities.

There is an Appendix extracted from the *Hope Bay Howler* of the work of the *Eagle* and how close things came to a disaster.

There are 6 Maps, sources and notes, and a selected bibliography.

# Book Reviews

Besides the chapters listed above, the author has provided a section on Sources and Notes corresponding to each of the chapters, and a Selected Bibliography. A perusal of these appendices for the source material of the non-Newfoundland narrative reveals the usual suspects - Dudeney and Walton, and Haddelsey being particularly relevant. On some occasions a proper reference would have been appreciated - especially where a contentious opinion is being aired or quoted. In addition, an index would have been helpful.

Readers will have to bear in mind that the focus of this book is on Newfoundland and, perhaps, the subtitle of the book should be interpreted more in the way of the context in which the *Eagle* and *Trepassey* were operating, rather than a straight narrative of their various voyages to the Arctic and the Antarctic and their careers as whalers. Readers are treated to quite extensive accounts of other vessels and other expeditions in which they were involved. This is all good stuff but not as relevant to British readers as other chapters in the book.

The chapter on territorial claims and the geopolitics is a useful summary but readers to whom this is important will probably want to delve deeper in which case the article by Dudeney and Walton in the *Polar Record 2011* with its extensive references will provide a good starting point. Early on in the book, in his summary of the history of the occupation and claim to the South Shetland Islands, Dickinson places them south of the Antarctic circle which is a curious error and slightly undermines the confidence of the reader in the quality of the proofreading.

We have recently been treated to Tom Woodfield's *Polar Mariner* which describes maritime operations in the Antarctic from his perspective and should give Fids much pause for thought and insight into the difficulties facing seafarers in such a hostile environment. What comes out so clearly in Tom's book is the importance of the personalities of the officers and crew in the successful execution of their mission; the personalities of the officers and men of the *Eagle* and the *Trepassey* are of equal importance and it is quite clear that the character and experience of the two or three skippers from Newfoundland who are examined in detail contributed enormously to what was able to be achieved with the most meagre of resources. Living in Newfoundland and immersed in its proud maritime history, Dickinson is better placed than others to capture the heritage and environment which formed these remarkable men.

The book is well written particularly concerning the *Eagle*. When the reader is first introduced to the *Eagle* it is in highly critical terms but by the end of its time in the Antarctic your reviewer was very sorry to bid it farewell - as were the Fids who had bonded with the crew through shared experiences and genuine respect and friendship. One gets the impression that the journey down from St John's to Stanley was a worse experience for the crew than the activities further south: the smell and slipperiness of the decks from exuded seal oil as it entered the tropics; the need to declinker the boilers twice in hot weather; the death of a stoker and nine of the crew debilitated must surely qualify the voyage as being "ill-fated". The Royal Navy report on her condition in Port Stanley is a catalogue of woes: if the ship had been a dog it would have been put down years before.

As in *Polar Mariner* the description of storms at sea are graphic and terrifying -real *pièces de resistance*. The unsuitability of the *Eagle* for the duties it was tasked to perform were manifold: for a start it was coal fired; it was too small; it was slow and barely seaworthy. Under a lesser captain and crew it would surely have failed to establish Port Lockroy and thus compromise the British efforts to reinforce sovereignty, and demonstrate productive use in the territory.

It becomes clear throughout the book, that the peculiarly British failing of "too little too late" materially affected the ease with which the strategic requirements were implemented, and that so much was asked of the men in the field that could have been avoided with better planning and scheduling. London is a useful punchbag for men in the field - back then as it is today. The reader gets very little feel of the extraordinary difficulty of planning and implementing in wartime what for many people was a project of only marginal importance: one forms the opinion that some of the functionaries involved were of only modest attainments.

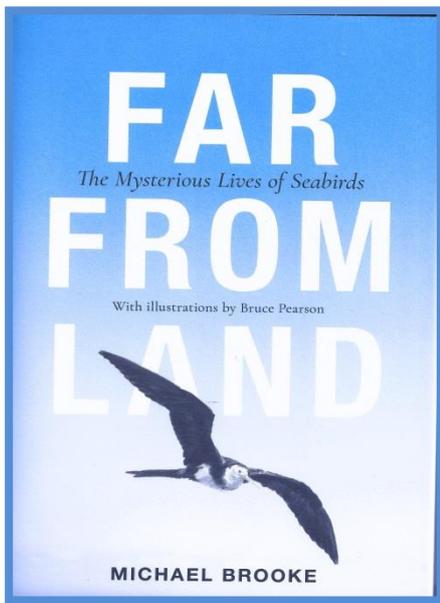
There is much of consummate interest in this book but the account is very much weighted to a particular point of view: members of the BAS Club with access to the BAOHP interviews would benefit by reading some of the accounts from *Tabarin* survivors transcribed from the interviews conducted by Jo Rae back in the 'eighties.

Nevertheless this is an important addition to the canon of Antarctic literature and one which your reviewer can recommend to all readers who are interested in the early days of F.I.D.S.

# Book Reviews

## FAR FROM LAND

### The Mysterious Lives of Seabirds



By Michael Brooke with Illustrations by Bruce Pearson

Hardcover £24.95 - 256 pages - 21 colour + 29 B/W illustrations, 8 Maps

Princeton University Press - ISBN No 978-0-691-17418-1

[www.press.princeton.edu](http://www.press.princeton.edu)

#### Reviewed by Steve Krikler

As a surgeon and medical journal editor I have reviewed many books over the years, but always medical books, so it was with interest that I sat down to review this book. Although I am no great ornithologist, when I sailed to and from my base on the RRS Bransfield, I watched with fascination as wandering albatrosses seemed to glide so effortlessly in powerful winds over huge waves. I got to know our local breeding emperor penguins over the winter, and I saw many other species of penguin as we sailed around from base to base. I watched petrels, skuas and terns in their natural habitats, but I had no understanding of their life cycles and how they coped in such a harsh environment.

I found this book a fascinating read; the introduction is a mixture of an autobiographical note and an explanation of the book. The author is evidently experienced and expert in his field, knowledgeable and passionate, and able to describe his field clearly to a non-specialist. While I was on base, I collected dead emperor chicks, dissected their stomachs and sent the squid beaks back to Cambridge for analysis. I understood this would help determine the adult feeding patterns, though I never heard what became of my efforts. This book gives some insight into this type of basic research, which has been going on for years. I liked the review of the invention and refinement of the variety of monitoring devices that have been developed, so that a seabird can now *“be more closely monitored than a patient in intensive care”*. Having been involved in the care of patients in intensive care (and having been one myself many years ago), I can confirm that I have never been able to track the exact location of a patient, neither their speed, whether their feet were wet or dry, nor how deep they have dived, nor when and by how much they opened their beak. The nursing staff usually keep a record of their food intake, but not at what depth they ate, nor whether their depth trace showed a small wiggle as they chased their food. And monitoring in intensive care is so much easier; we have mains electricity and we are not particularly worried about the size or weight of the monitoring equipment, whereas small seabirds can only cope with attached devices if they weigh a few grams. The types of information which can be gleaned from all these various monitoring devices, as well as isotope studies and stomach contents, is well covered. The vast wealth of new information that this development in monitoring has produced is discussed in detail over the rest of the book.

The chapters are used to divide the information into categories, although inevitably there is some overlap between different chapters. This is dealt with by cross-referencing to other chapters. The writing flows well, so it is easy to read this book as a simple narrative, but all the facts are backed up with references in the list of notes for each chapter to their original peer-reviewed sources. The chapters flow through the maturing process of various species of seabirds and then discuss aspects of adult life. There are chapters discussing breeding, migration patterns, food location, feeding techniques and patterns. These data vary between species, which is not surprising, but interestingly there are variations between birds within the same species. The differences may be influenced by gender, maturity, breeding success or ‘home’ colony location. The book ends with a description of the interaction of birds with people, past, present and future. Although there are, inevitably, depressing examples of the harm to seabirds from their interaction with humans, direct and indirect, there are many examples of positive interventions which give cause for some degree of optimism.

# Book Reviews

The book is well-illustrated, with many pen and ink illustrations throughout the book and two sets of colour plates, with some excellent photographs. There are also some maps, and a list of all the bird species, and their latin names.

There is an enormous amount of detailed information given. It never occurred to me how much variation there is between different species' feeding strategies, and how they may change at different stages of breeding, incubating, rearing and non-breeding phases. I was also intrigued by the differing underwater tactics, with V shaped and U shaped dives between species, sometimes due to variation in wing morphology leading to differing abilities in underwater manoeuvring. Who would have thought the heart rate of a wandering albatross could be monitored during take-off, level flight and when at rest on the water surface? Inevitably, the effects of climate change and plastic pollution on seabird populations has to be mentioned. The ability of birds to adjust to weather changes seems reassuring, but there are inevitably stresses which may come from affects on migration patterns, habitat loss or damage, as well changing food stocks.

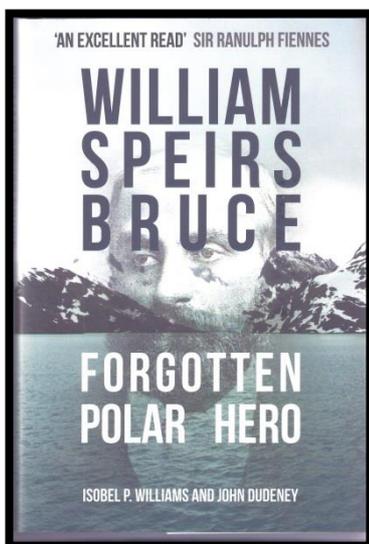
Nothing is perfect, and I was curious to see what was shown on Map 2, which was mentioned on page 48. I flicked through subsequent pages, finding unnumbered maps on pages 60, 62, & 66 which were obviously not the map I was looking for. The first set of colour plates lies between pages 82 and 83, and contains plate 7, which is a map but still not the one I was after. Finally, between pages 154 and 155 I found the second set of colour plates which consisted of maps 1 - 13. I understand why these maps are all in colour, and I appreciate that the practicalities of printing necessitate printing most of the book on plain paper with colour plates inserted where needed, but a hint as to the location of the numbered maps would have been helpful, particularly when they are so far removed from their initial mention. Although the colour plates and drawings embedded within the text all have legends providing clear explanations, the pen and ink illustrations at the start of many chapters do not have legends; sometimes they would benefit from a brief explanation.

I enjoyed this book. It gave me a much more detailed understanding of the lives of these wonderful creatures and their ability to cope with such a wide range of challenges. To anyone with a keen interest in seabirds, this will provide a wealth of detailed information from an expert in his field. To a layman like myself, it is a fascinating tale, well worth reading.

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## WILIAM SPEIRS BRUCE

### The Forgotten Hero



By Isobel P Williams and John Dudeney

Hard cover

Amberley Books - ISBN No 978-1-4456-8081-1

[www.amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com)

Reviewed by: Steve Wroe

An informative, interesting and well written book, documenting the life and works of an underestimated and largely unappreciated Polar Scientist from the 'heroic' era.

The book charts Bruce's formative years and explains how chance placed a major part in his developing an interest in Polar scientific research when he signed on as surgeon/naturalist on the whaler 'Balaena' bound for Antarctica. For the young William Spiers Bruce, life would never be the same again and having witnessed sealing on a commercial scale, developed a concern for the sustainability of some marine species.

The book now investigates the problems that Bruce faced in his thirst for further expeditions. Funding and financial support were a difficulty facing all proposed expeditions and Bruce's was no exception. This led to friction between Bruce and Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society which would sour their relationship for the rest of Bruce's career. However the different backgrounds between the two (Bruce was a scientist and Markham a geographer) may also have also played a part in their differing views.

# Book Reviews

Bruce then embarked on the Scotia Expedition. An all Scottish venture which Markham saw as a rival expedition to the Discovery Expedition which Sir Clements Markham and the RGS was backing.

The Scotia's expedition of 1902 - 1904 provided a great deal of beneficial scientific results, although they did not see any fur seals as these had been brought to near extinction during the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

Upon his return, Bruce threw himself into establishing the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory. By now he had realised that the way to obtain public funding was to 'sell' the adventurous aspect of his work, however, the government was intent at funding expeditions which were nationalistic whereas Bruce's proposals were 'Scottish'. Conflict was unavoidable. Bruce's cause was not helped by his inability to prioritise, in that he had many demands on his time and attention..

The outbreak of WW1 further thwarted Bruce's ambitions. His brainchild (the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory) was now incorporated into Edinburgh University and also at around this time his marriage broke up, although his wife continued to live under the same roof. A further concern to Bruce at this time was that his son had joined the Royal Navy as a cadet.

Bruce's aims now changed and he decided to become an entrepreneur in order to gain financial stability by means of extracting minerals and natural resources from Spitzbergen. This however, led him into the geopolitics of the Spitzbergen region which would remain the focus of his rest of his life.

In 1912, Bruce's already complex life became even more complex when he took up a post at the University of Sheffield. It was at this time that Bruce again became embroiled in conflict with Sir Clements Markham concerning papers published by the Royal Geographical Society.

Despite territorial claims from a number of countries with regard ownership of Spitzbergen, in 1919 Bruce led an expedition on behalf of the Scottish Spitzbergen Syndicate. It was during this time that Bruce's health began to fail. Little could be identified of a physical nature and it is implied that Bruce's mental health was the main problem.

By 1920 Bruce was bedridden. His frail health rapidly deteriorated and he died in Edinburgh on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1921 of Arteriosclerosis. He was cremated and his ashes were scattered at sea off the coast of South Georgia.

Bruce's work has led to a continuous history of scientific data covering over 100 years at Laurie Island in the Antarctic.

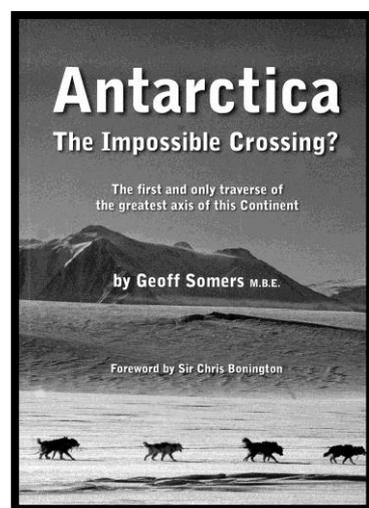
It is perhaps telling of his relationship with Markham that in the years following Bruce's death Markham scarcely gives him or his work a mention.

Bruce was clearly not an easy man to deal with, and perhaps this is one of the reasons that, despite many accolades which he achieved for his work, he was never awarded the Polar Medal.

One of the most interesting facets of this book is the wealth of information and supporting material contained in the appendix (which covers about one third of the book). This alone, even without the book, would constitute a fascinating 'read' even in its own right.

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## ANTARCTICA      The Impossible Crossing



By Geoff Somers MBE

Soft cover, 24cms by 16.5cms, 220 pages,

78 photographs together with maps and illustrations.

This is a private publication, but copies can be obtained from Geoff Somers at: [info@geoffsomers.com](mailto:info@geoffsomers.com) or from:

2 Brundholme Mews; Station Road; Keswick; Cumbria CA12 4NR  
£15 a copy plus £3 P&P

Reviewed by Chris Brading

This book is about an epic journey with dogs that took place 28 years ago in 1989-90 by an international team of six men from Britain, France, Russia, America, China and Japan. It had international sponsorship and Adventure Network International was contracted to supply air support.

The object was to cross Antarctica by the longest axis. They started from the Seal Nunataks on the east coast of the Peninsula in September 89

# Book Reviews

and finished at Mirnyy in March 90. They had cached various depots the year before and had occasional air resupply, but the caches were a long way apart and were often hard to find and occasionally lost. Their route took them down the Peninsula to Siple Station then skirting the Ellsworth range to Patriot Hills where they could effect repairs and resupply in relative comfort. The next legs took them to the South Pole Station then Vostok and finally Mirnyy. Geoff was the principal navigator and had learnt his craft with BAS. He used a Nansen sledge, pyramid tent and largely traditional BAS routines.

The other two teams used dome tents and Komatak sledges with solid side runners with proved less reliable and had to be replaced by air resupply.

When I was asked to review this book, it was because I was a dog sledge man, having sledged 2500 miles with dogs on the Peninsula and spent 500 nights in a pyramid tent during my time with FIDS. At Hope Bay we travelled throughout the winter laying depots and doing reconnaissances, so experienced some very cold and windy conditions and encountered all types of snow. I therefore found this book engrossing and wallowed in nostalgia fully empathising with the team, reliving their intimacy with the dogs, as they met and overcame challenging situations. What was different is that they travelled almost continuously for seven long months.

On the high plateau from the Pole to Vostok and beyond they were affected by the altitude and the approaching winter meant travelling long hours in temperatures of minus forty and below often with high winds and consequent added wind chill. The strain and endurance required are magnified many times over. This must have been the last great journey with dogs and I am still amazed at the resilience of both the men and the dogs over such a sustained period although some of the dogs had to be evacuated and replaced and a couple died.

I was completely engrossed in the book and could not put it down. It is well written in diary format and refreshing in that it admits to mistakes and personal misgivings so often missing from many official accounts of expeditions. I thoroughly recommend it particularly to those who have travelled in the polar regions with dogs.

# BAS Club Items For Sale

## FOR SALE ITEMS BAS CLUB MEMBERS

All items are offered at little more than cost price. Please place all orders or enquires via the Club Secretary Tony Wincott e-mail [tony.wincott@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.wincott@btinternet.com) or Tel:- 01327 341767

To save postage costs you can purchase by a BACS payment. Cheque payments made out to BAS Club send to 20 Lancers Way, Weedon, Northants UK NN7 4PH ----- Overseas postage on application please

**PAYPAL - the club can accept payment for any item using PAYPAL**  
**- Contact Tony Wincott and he will send an E-Invoice**

### BAS CLUB CUFFLINKS

These depict the BAT crest in superb miniature detail.

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UK P&P is £2.50.



### BAS CLUB LAPEL/BROOCH

The "must have" for every BAS Club member  
Proving very popular we have reordered another batch!

These are a pin fitting so suitable as a collar badge or brooch as well! These superb quality enamel badges are available only to Club members now at the ridiculous low price of £2 each , yes only 2 quid. What a bargain ! At this price why not buy 2 or 3 ?  
UK P&P is £1.50.



### BAS CLUB TIES AND BADGES

Club ties are now available in three colours Navy Blue, Light Blue and Maroon  
at £9.50p each + £1.50p UK p&p

# BAS Club Items For Sale

## NOW AVAILABLE THE BAS CLUB BLAZER BADGE

These badges depict the BAT crest underlined with the BAS Club insignia  
They are from a new supplier and they have interpreted the design with  
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These are now available from the Club Secretary  
for the reasonable price of £9 which includes UK post and packing



HALLEY 5  
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## AVAILABLE VIA A WEBSITE NEW FOR BAS CLUB MEMBERS

The Committee are pleased to announce to the membership that you can now purchase a reasonably priced range of BAS Club clothing --- which can be personalised in several ways to suit the individual.

ACORN PRINTING OF COVENTRY provides a service which allows the buyer to have individual embroidered script placed onto various garments. These are then posted directly to the purchaser. ACORN PRINTING of Coventry is owned and run by a mother and son team, Rachel and Duncan Horlor. They have been more than helpful with the web based set up and did not charge BAS Club for any embroidery or set up fees .

**THERE IS NO MINIMUM ORDER REQUIREMENT FROM PURCHASERS!**

For each item purchased the BAS Club Benevolent fund will receive a donation of £1.

Orders are also accepted from overseas customers.

Postage and packing for these customers will be quoted individually upon request

If you do not have access to email or the internet you can still view the range and make a purchase.

For members requiring this service please contact the Secretary, Tony Wincott, at 20 Lancers Way, Weedon. Northants. UK NN& 4PH and he will arrange to send a catalogue for your consideration.

This link will take you directly to the web site and click on British Antarctic Survey Club at the head of the list.

<http://www.tshirtuk.com/index.php?route=product/category&path=83>

Happy shopping! Winkers.....

# BAS Club Items For Sale



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# BAS Club Items For Sale

**NEW  
BAS CLUB MUGS**  
£7.50 direct from the web  
based supplier



## HUSKY MUGS



Each mug comes complete with a text slip regarding the subject  
They are available from our Club supplier direct via the [www.tshirtuk.com](http://www.tshirtuk.com). Link

**PRICE** £7.50p each

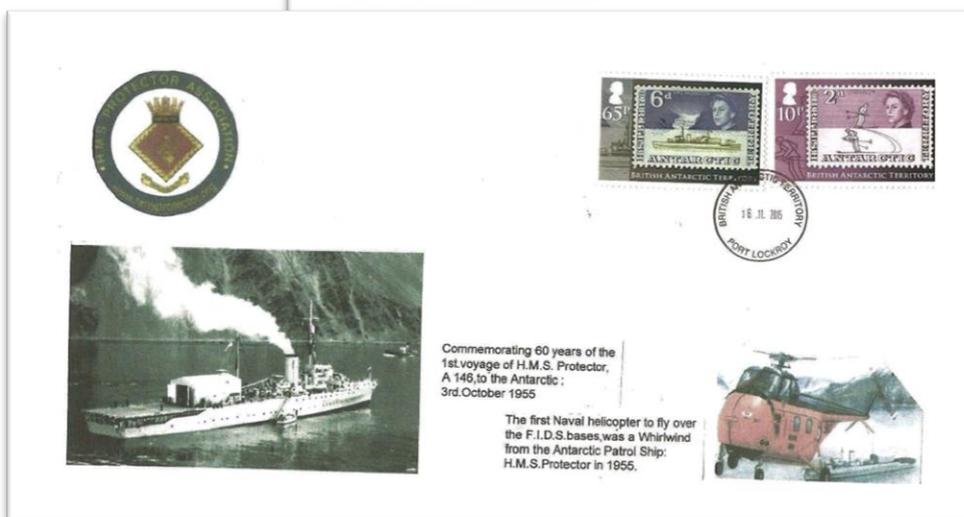


**NEW BAS CLUB PENS**  
**ONLY £1.75**  
**including UK p&p**

The ink colour is black and the logo shown is on both side of the pen..  
Bulk order discounts available (£5.50 for five pens) please [get in touch](mailto:info.basclub@gmail.com) with Tony Wincott  
[info.basclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.basclub@gmail.com) to place a quantity order.

OVERSEAS postage, please use the [form](http://www.basclub.org) on the website [www.basclub.org](http://www.basclub.org) to request a bespoke quote.

# BAS Club Items For Sale



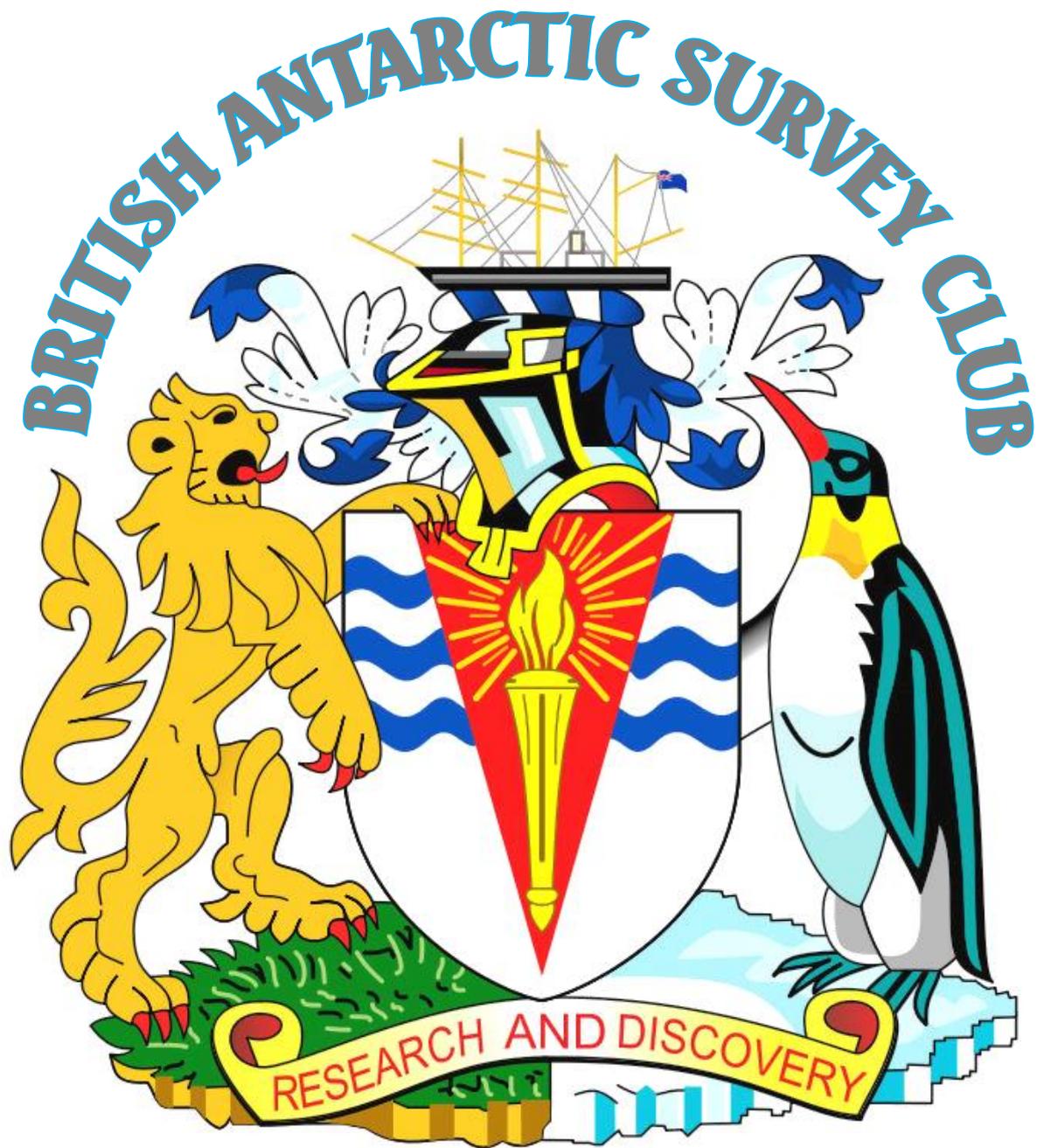
## STAMPS ON ENVELOPES FOR SALE

Looking for offers in excess of £10 per lot

Auction will close end of July 2018

Bids to [info.basclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.basclub@gmail.com) or text to 07702 055601

All proceeds to Benevolent Fund



**British Antarctic Survey Club**  
**c/o British Antarctic Survey High Cross, Madingley Road**  
**Cambridge CB3 0ET England**  
**[www.basclub.org](http://www.basclub.org)**



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