Peter Berg, previously our hon archivist, has written and published a book about Whymper's Lantern Slide Show of around 140 years ago. Peter Mallalieu has published a second, enlarged edition of *The Artists of the Alpine Club*. These, and several other publications due out soon, contain many photographs from the collections of the Alpine Club.

As I write this in spring 2011 we are welcoming Roland Jackson as the new library hon secretary and Peter Roland to the task of being curator for the photographs. They will have plenty to do because nothing stands still in the library work.

I conclude by quoting Mike Westmacott, a previous chairman of the library, who wrote in 1989: 'We have the duty ... of keeping faith with the many people who have generously contributed to the library, making it the important collection we have today.' Since then, many new donations of collections, money and time have made his words even more true. We can be proud that the library team of splendid volunteers are doing this.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mick Fowler was elected President of the Alpine Club on 4 December 2010 following what is thought to be the first contested election to the prestigious post in the Club's 153-year history. Mick pledged to devote his three years as president to attracting more active alpinists into the AC.

Though AC rules provide for ballots to office holders, traditionally that of president has been passed on by invitation rather than contested election. During 2010 the Club committee discussed potential candidates and unanimously concluded that Mick be asked to stand as successor to Paul Braithwaite.

When a challenger emerged in the form of Henry Day, the committee and wider membership was faced with something of a dilemma. Mick exemplifies the style of exploratory mountaineering championed by the AC, and it was thought that having as its public face a climber still pushing the boat out on big mountain routes could only be of benefit to the club's image. However Henry, climbing leader of the Army Mountaineering Association team that made the second ascent of Annapurna (8091m) in 1970, is also a popular figure in the AC, having served the club in several roles, including vice-president (1986-87).

Under the club's antiquated rules (now changed) only members who actually attended the AGM would be able to vote in the Fowler-Day contest. But annual meetings are often thinly attended and the AC membership is scattered worldwide. The committee therefore decided to conduct a consultative poll among the club's 1200 members. It was to be non-binding but would clearly be difficult to ignore.

Come the day, members filled the AC's clubroom in Shoreditch for a hustings session with the two candidates followed by a secret ballot. Despite much prior uncertainty, in the end the result was clear-cut – Fowler 59 votes, Day 21 votes. The poll was even more emphatic – Fowler 241, Day 60. If the turnout does not look too impressive, bear in mind two things – nobody loves AGMs, and it was a weekend when winter climbing conditions in the UK have seldom been better. From now on, the AGM decided, postal and proxy votes will be provided for in club elections. ***SG***

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Since publication of the 2009 *Alpine Journal*, the following have been appointed:

Peter Habeler, Austrian guide, best known for his partnership with Reinhold Messner on fast climbs of the Eiger and Matterhorn north faces, an alpine-style ascent of Gasherbrum I (8086m) and their groundbreaking ascent of Everest in 1978 without the aid of bottled oxygen.

Tom Hornbein, American doctor who in 1963, with Willi Unsoeld, made the first ascent of Everest's west ridge and then descended by the south ridge, thus completing the first traverse of the mountain.

Silvo Karo, Slovenian alpinist and filmmaker, best known for his first ascents of the south face of Cerro Torre in 1987 and the west face of Bhagirathi III in 1990 – both routes with the late Janez Jeglic. Karo's 16mm film of the Cerro Torre climb won first prize at the Trento Mountain Film Festival.

Erhard Loretan – deceased. See his obituary, page 436.

Jeff Lowe, American alpinist with more than a 1000 first ascents to his name. Best known for introducing modern European ice climbing to the USA, for his attempt on the north ridge of Latok I with Jim Donini, Michael Kennedy and George Lowe in 1978, and for the first ascent of the north face of Kwangde Ri, Nepal, with David Breashears in 1982.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2010/2011

Note: This list covers two years. Where an officer or committee member served for only one of those years, that year is given in brackets.

PRESIDENT ..... Paul Braithwaite (2010), Mick Fowler (2011)
VICE PRESIDENTS . Derek Buckle (2010), Simon Yates, Jim Milledge (2011)
HONORARY SECRETARY..... Françoise Call (2010)
John Town (2011)
HONORARY TREASURER ..... Rupert Baron
HONORARY LIBRARIAN ..... Jerry Lovatt
HONORARY EDITOR OF THE *Alpine Journal* ..... Stephen Goodwin
COMMITTEE ..... Anna Lawford, Mike Mortimer
John Porter, Tracey Quine, Stuart Worsfold, Dave Wynne-Jones
Stephen Hunt (2010), Martin Scott (2010), Bill Thurston (2010)
Duncan Tunstall (2010), Derek Buckle (2011), Jamie Goodhart (2011)
Peter Holden (2011), Roger James (2011), Mike Pinney (2011)
ADMINISTRATOR..... Iwonna Hudowska
LIBRARIAN ..... Tadeusz Hudowski

OFFICE BEARERS

BMC LIAISON ..... Alison Stockwell
LONDON LECTURES ..... Derek Buckle
MEETS..... Dave Wynne-Jones
MEMBERSHIP ..... Stuart Worsfold
WINTER DINNER..... William Newsom
HONORARY ARCHIVIST..... Glyn Hughes
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S PICTURES..... Peter Mallalieu
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S PHOTOGRAPHS... Anna Lawford (2010)
Peter Rowland (2011)
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S ARTEFACTS ..... Jerry Lovatt
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S MONUMENTS..... William Newsom
CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE..... Richard Morgan
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ..... Françoise Call (2010)
Roger James (2011)
CHAIRMAN OF THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY COUNCIL..... Hywel Lloyd
CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE..... Stuart Worsfold
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMPUTER WORKING GROUP..... David Baldock
ASSISTANT EDITOR OF THE *Alpine Journal* ..... Paul Knott
PRODUCTION EDITOR OF THE *Alpine Journal*..... Bernard Newman
NEWSLETTER EDITOR..... Dick Turnbull
WEBSITE EDITORS ..... David Baldock, Robin Quine
TRUSTEES..... Michael Baker, John Harding (2010), Stuart Beare
CLIMBING FUND ..... Derek Buckle, Toto Gronlund,
Paul Knott, Martin Scott, Chris Watts

Contributors

SANDY ALLAN is a freelance British Mountain Guide favoured with a worldwide list of ascents, climbs and travels. Based from Newtonmore, Scotland, Sandy is a passionate mountaineer and Scottish winter climbing activist who feels it is imperative to maintain our natural wilderness areas in pristine condition and pass on to all, the unique sense of freedom, kinship and responsibility we experience in wide open spaces.

MALCOLM BASS lives with his partner Donna James on the edge of the North York Moors. Between expeditions he enjoys bouldering, sport and trad climbing, and driving up and down to Scotland in the dark. He works as a clinical psychologist in the NHS. He has climbed new alpine routes in Alaska, India and China, but is currently in the grip of an unhealthy obsession with Kilnsey.

MICHEL BATAILLON was artistic adviser of the Théâtre National Populaire from 1972 to 2004 and a translator of contemporary German playwrights. He now divides his time between the theatre, libraries and archives and his mountain home in the Oisans. His interest in mountain history led to his involvement in the retrieval and research into the celebrated Grépon ice-axe.

ANTONIO GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ lives in Murcia, Spain. A librarian and documentalist (information scientist), he specialises in ascents in the north Peruvian ranges. He has written two books: *La Cordillera Blanca de los Andes, selección de ascensiones, excursiones y escaladas* and *Cordillera Blanca, Escaladas, Parte Norte*. He has climbed since 1967, with first ascents including *Spanish Direct* on the north face of Cima Grande di Lavaredo, Italy (1977), *Direct* on La Visera (1981) and *Pilar del Cantábrico* on Naranjo de Bulnes, Spain (1981), *Canal Central* on the south-west face of Alpamayo (1983), east face of Cerro Parón (La Esfinge, 5325m), Peru (1985) and the south-east face (1988).

PAUL BRAITHWAITE was AC president 2008-2010 and is the managing director of specialist contracting company Vertical Access Ltd. He started climbing in 1961 at the age of 14 with school friends on local Pennine outcrops. For more than 35 years he climbed extensively at a high standard in the UK, the Alps and greater ranges (winter/summer) and became one of Britain's leading mountaineers of his generation. He was a member of many climbing expeditions to remote regions including Arctic Canada, Alaska, South America, Russia, Nepal and Tibet and has taken part in many first ascents including the south-west face of Everest in 1975.