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Alpine Club Notes



Julian Cooper, *Everest south-west face*, oil on paper, 54 x 74cm, 2013

EVEREST AND KANGCHENJUNGA: MARKING THE FIRST ASCENTS

The 60th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest was marked by two major events in the UK. The first, on 29 May 2013 – 60 years to the day after Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit – was a celebration at the Royal Geographical Society in London hosted by the Mount Everest Foundation and the Himalayan Trust UK. Entitled 'Crowning Achievement, Lasting Legacy', this tribute to John Hunt's 1953 team was attended by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. With the death, two months earlier, of George Lowe, no members of the climbing team remain alive. The only person now able to tell of the adventure first hand is the writer Jan Morris, who, as *Times* correspondent James Morris, was present at the camp in the Western Cwm when Hillary and Tenzing returned from the top and, with the help of Mike Westmacott, was able to convey the glad tidings to London in time for the Coronation. The Queen was seated in the Ondaatje Theatre of the RGS as Morris recalled the pair's descent through the Khumbu Icefall 60 years on.



Sir Chris informs Prince Philip. (All photos by James Finlay)



Henry Day, at the culmination of a job well done.

Bill Ruthven, Hon Secretary of the Mount Everest Foundation, joint host of the royal event, meets Her Majesty. Patrick Fagan stands in attendance.



Kangchenjunga climbers Norman Hardie and Tony Streather with Prince Philip.



Jerry Lovatt (left) introduces Prince Philip to AJ reviewer Ronald Faux. Glyn Hughes looks on as do Frances Faux (almost hidden) and Ingram Lloyd.

The second celebration was a more informal affair at the Pen y Gwryd Hotel in Snowdonia and linked both the Everest anniversary and the first ascent of Kangchenjunga in 1955. Two AC members deserve particular thanks for the success of these two events: Henry Day, who was key to the organisation of the London celebration, and Anna Lawford who superbly choreographed the AC reception and buffet supper at the Pen y Gwryd.



Special pin presented to all present at the AC-hosted reception at the Pen y Gwryd.

Celebrating at the Pen y Gwryd Hotel, 1 June 2013

by Anna Lawford

It was back in November 2011 that Mike and Sally Westmacott wrote to the AC Committee suggesting that the Club should celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the first ascent of Everest. Given that the MEF and Himalayan Trust (UK) were already planning a day's programme of events at the RGS, the Committee decided that an entertaining and appropriate gathering might be a celebration at the Pen y Gwryd Hotel. All those familiar with the preparations of the 1953 expedition will know that the PyG features in the history of the Everest team, both at the planning and preparation stage of the expedition and subsequently as the venue for reunions of Everest and Kangchenjunga first ascent teams and their families.



Past president Stephen Venables sets the pace at the PyG. The year 2013 was also the 25th anniversary of Stephen's ascent of Everest via the Kangshung face.
(Kimball Morrison)

Not wanting to hijack the expedition team members' and families' five-yearly gathering, the AC's celebration was organised to follow the day after their reunion dinner and take the form of a reception and buffet supper.

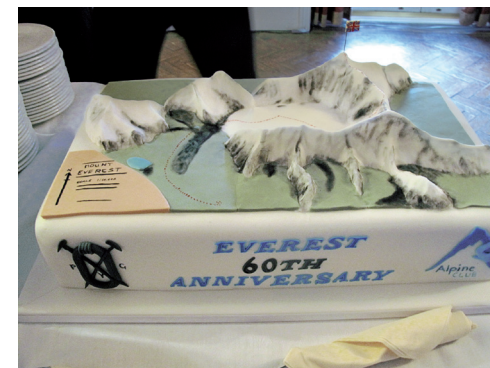
In May 2012, quite unexpectedly, the Hon. Treasurer received a legacy from George Band's estate to go towards the costs of an Everest/Kangchenjunga reunion and so, with the Band family's approval, George's generous bequest was used to cover the costs of the expeditions' team members and families attending this celebration.

Thus, on 1 June 2013, hosted by the President, Mick Fowler, the AC's Celebration was held at the PyG. The Club was delighted that Jan Morris, sole survivor of the westerners on Everest, reserve Emlyn Jones and Kangchenjunga first ascent members Joe Brown, Norman Hardie and Tony Streather were able to attend with their families, together with family members of others from the two expeditions: John Hunt, George Band, Tom Bourdillon, Charles Evans, Alf



All this and some climbing too! AC stalwarts working up an appetite for the PyG buffet with the first of five routes in Cwm Idwal. Committee member Peter Holden (*flat cap*), librarian Tadeusz Hudowski and administrator Iwonna Hudowska.
(Stephen Goodwin)

A slice of history anyone? Anniversary cake at the PyG. (Stephen Goodwin)





Rebecca Stephens (left), Joe Brown and Val Brown. Joe is holding his PyG tankard. All the Everesters, and subsequently the Kangchenjunga climbers, had their own tankard held at PyG. (Hywel Lloyd)

Gregory, George Lowe, Griff Pugh, Mike Westmacott, Charles Wylie, Hamish Nicol, John Jackson, and Neil Mather. Sadly, Roger and Ann Chorley were unable to attend but their family was present. Jane Ward was also unable to attend but had contributed a letter from Raymond Greene that Michael Ward had received in Kathmandu on return from Everest. This was read out by Mick Fowler and is reprinted below.

With Denise Evans present, both as a past AC President and as an Everest and Kangchenjunga family member, the Club invited also those surviving past Presidents not usually involved with the Everest/Kangch reunions. They too had their own significant Everest experience: Chris Bonington, Doug Scott, Stephen Venables and Tut Braithwaite. Other guests attending were Scott Titt, representing the BMC, Mark Vallance, Climbers' Club, Dawn Hollis, Oxford University MC and Peter Davenport, John Chat-taway and Sian Hughes, Cambridge University MC. (The latter two clubs were invited as the 1953 Everest team included three ex-CUMC and three ex-OUMC members.)

With 66 expedition and family members attending, 42 AC members and

guests and 13 Club guests, the PyG was full and the hotel, keen to play their part, provided excellent service, delicious food and a splendid Everest cake.

The backdrop of the evening was a slideshow, prepared by Peter Rowland, which included numerous previously unseen images kindly provided by team members and their families. These, added to the usual expedition photographs, resulted in an entertaining, informal mix of pictures reflecting the relaxed and celebratory atmosphere of the evening. It was a great party, an historic occasion and much enjoyed by all those present.

Letter from Raymond Greene to Michael Ward

148 Harley St, W.1.
May 16 1953

My dear Ward,

It was so kind of you to write to me, when, as I know, you are so busy. It is strange to think that just 20 years ago I was in your boots¹. It seems the devil of a long time ago when one writes it down, and yet it seems only yesterday.

I'm glad you are keeping an eye on sanitation. I gather that some expeditions have been less careful. Everybody will think you are fussing unnecessarily, but there is a strict rectilinear relationship between fussiness in the M.O. and freedom from diarrhoea.

By this time you are, I imagine, on the South Col. There is intense excitement here, second only to interest in the Coronation. The B.B.C. is trotting out all the time-worn broadcasts and a lot of my secretary's time is taken up with deflecting newspapers from their hellish object of interviewing me about your chances. All the newspapers are full of inopined guess work about exactly what you are doing at each moment of time. There is a feeling of urgency which I never saw before – perhaps because the ascent at the beginning of the new Elizabethan age has some meta-physical meaning in many minds, and perhaps because of a feeling that if you don't do it somebody else will, the Russians, maybe, with a battalion of expendable troops.

By the time you get this it will be over². So my excited congratulations to you all, or my admiring condolences, as the case may be.

Yours ever
Raymond Greene

1. Raymond Greene (brother of the novelist Graham Greene) was chief medical officer on the 1933 Everest expedition led by Hugh Rutledge.

2. It was indeed 'over'. Ward received the letter on his return to Kathmandu after the team's successful ascent.

AC MEMBER SURVEY 2012

by Jerry Lovatt

Introduction

A motion was tabled at the 2011 AGM that would have required the Committee to produce two alternative plans for moving the AC headquarters away from London. This was rejected on the grounds that it was not clear that the membership would support such a move. If this subsequently proved to be the case a great deal of time and effort could have been expended fruitlessly. This and a number of other issues prompted the Committee to decide the time was ripe for a membership survey. A previous survey had been conducted in 2004 but this was clearly out of date and, in any event, did not adequately cover the current issues.

The Committee asked me to run the study, based on my career-long involvement in consumer research. Fortunately, there was another volunteer to help out, namely Donna James, the wife of a member, whose current involvement in the same field allowed us to put the main questionnaire on-line employing the latest technology.

Method and Sample

As noted, the primary means of data collection was on-line employing self-completion, via a link emailed to members. Those not on email and not having internet access were posted a questionnaire for similar self-completion. These questionnaires were mailed back to the supplier and entered manually on-line, in the same format as those completed electronically. The supplier was Donna's company, Babcock International in York.

A total of 616 members completed the survey, thus somewhat below 50%. Although this would be regarded as a good response to a normal commercial survey, it is arguably a little disappointing for a survey of members being asked to respond on issues of significant importance to the future running of their club. While the inevitable timing of the survey in the summer months (to ensure securing results in time for the following AGM) will probably have reduced the response rate somewhat, the rate of return is still felt to be low.

The sample is felt to be broadly representative of the membership as follows:

1. Type of membership is closely in line, with slightly more Full Members than Aspirants (+5% and -4% respectively) and Honorary Members and Associates almost exactly as in the member database.
2. Male/female representation is exactly in line.
3. Age cannot be precisely compared, due to different age groupings in the two data sets. However, it is close enough to conclude

that the sample adequately represents the membership in terms of age. We have slightly more members under 30 in the sample, slightly fewer 30-59, slightly more 60-69 and again slightly fewer 70 or over.

4. UK versus overseas members is almost exactly in line.

Main Findings

1. Other demographic type variables

- We do not currently have a geographic split of the membership. However, the sample is fully spread across the UK, with no more than 15% in any one region.

- The same currently goes for a comparison of length of membership. In the sample, 26% had been members five years or less and 51% 15 years or less.

- Membership of other UK clubs was taken for SMC, FRCC, CC, Rucksack Club, Wayfarers and ABMSAC. 38% were not a member of any of these, 40% members of UK clubs other than those prompted and of those prompted, only the CC showed any significant number, at 23%.

- Other Alpine Clubs showed 69% indicating none, only the Austrian (19%) reaching double figures.

2. Climbing activities

As a broad generalisation, the data show a membership that is active, or if not currently so, members who have been very active in the past. As an example, 52% of all respondents went to the Alps in 2011/2012 and as many as 70% since 2008. The corresponding figures for other Alpine Ranges are 25% and 50% and for the Greater Ranges 19% and 42%.

In the past five years, 13% of members have attended one or more UK Meets and 10% one or more Meets outside the UK.

3. Attendance at Club activities

1. As many as 33% said that they never attend the Club and a further 34% that they attend less than once a year. This is of course influenced by the geographical distribution of the membership. Only 14% of the sample live in London and a further 15% in the South-East.

2. Of the 67% who go to the Club at least occasionally, lectures,

the Library and meeting friends are the key reasons, with the Archives and Photo collections at a somewhat lower level. There may be some scope for bringing these two areas more to the attention of members.

3. Only 14% of members have attended any of the AC dinners in London in the past five years. With more opportunities to attend outside London dinners, this figure rises to 31%, although only 10% have attended more than two.

4. Four choices were offered for future dinners – all London, most in London with say one in three or four in a mountain area, most in a mountain area with say one in three or four in London, all in a mountain area. The figures for these were 6%, 26%, 40% and 28% respectively. This suggests that the current balance is about right, with a clear preference for the majority in a mountain area, but with a significant minority having an interest in at least an occasional London dinner.

4. Perceived importance of various Club activities and offerings

The issues covered were meets in different areas, expeditions, lectures and symposia, the various AC publications, electronic communications, dinners, the bunkhouse and networking with fellow mountaineers. Each item was rated in two ways, first in terms of importance to the member in question and second, his/her perception of importance to the reputation of the Club. Highlights are the following:

1. Virtually all items were seen to be more important to the perception of the Club than to the individual concerned, except a couple that are clearly only internal.

2. In terms of personal importance to members, the key issues seem to be Alpine Meets more important than UK Meets and Greater Ranges Meets and financial support for expeditions also at a higher level. The Journal is the most important item of all, with guidebooks coming next. London lectures, the Newsletter, the website and the electronic bulletin are in the next layer, along with networking with other mountaineers. Least important are Twitter, Facebook, the Presidential dinner and the bunkhouse.

3. As regards perceived importance to the reputation of the Club, the Journal consolidates its position as the most important item. Now, guidebooks, Alpine Meets, financing expeditions, the website and networking are in the second layer. The items increasing noticeably versus personal importance are AC Symposia, Greater Ranges Meets, both types of lectures and the Annual Dinner.

5. Possible future offerings

More expeditions received support by over 50%, with expedition advice being at an even higher level than this. Equally high was exhibitions from the collections around the country.

6. Attitudes towards the Club

1. 36% agreed strongly that the AC is a friendly club with a further 54% agreeing somewhat. This is encouraging, given concerns expressed about this issue in the past.

2. While there was still a level of agreement with the proposition that the AC is perceived as old-fashioned by young climbers (20% agreeing strongly and 62% somewhat), there was strong support for the idea that the AC is more up to date than it was 10-15 years ago (46% and 51%).

3. There was overwhelming agreement with the proposition that it 'gives me a good feeling to be a member of such an historic club as the AC' (75% plus 23%).

7. Emphasis on history/climbing

The survey explored the balance between the historical aspects of the Club versus climbing itself. Two separate items were offered for rating on the basis, too much, about right, too little: first the AC emphasis on history and the collections and second the AC emphasis on climbing activities. The 'about right' rating for the first was 86% and for the second 82%. While there was some variation with age of member, these levels remained at 81% and 66% respectively, even in the youngest age group.

8. Location of the AC Headquarters

Members were asked to agree or disagree that London remains the best place for the AC Library, office, Archives and lecture theatre. 83% agreed and 17% disagreed. There was no variation in these numbers by age of member. As regards domicile, only the group living furthest from London showed any noticeable drop in level of agreement, but even here the level remained as high as 68%. Among the minority disagreeing, although no single alternative stood out, Manchester received 31% of the votes and the Peak District 26%. However, do note that this only represents just over 4% and just over 5% of the overall sample.

9. Perceived importance of the Collections and other Club offerings

These were also rated for personal importance and perceived importance to the reputation of the Club. The main findings were as follows:

1. Of the Collections, the Library was rated highest on personal

importance with the Archives and Photo Library a little way behind, but still highly rated. The Paintings and Artefacts were slightly further back again.

2. Of the other items, the digital maps, AJ on-line and the Himalayan Index were highest rated, with exhibitions from the Collections and Chamonix climbs slightly further back but still gaining some support.

3. All the Collections, particularly the Library and Archives, were very strongly supported from the point of view of perception of the Club, as were the Himalayan Index and the AJ on-line.

10. Retain or divest Collections and information systems

This was a straight choice between retain all and divest some or all. 91% voted to retain all. Of the 9% saying divest some or all, the majority would still keep the Library and Archives. The easiest way to look at this is to recalculate the number saying sell or transfer to another organisation based on the whole sample. On this basis the percentages saying sell or transfer were Library 3%, Archives 4%, Paintings 9%, Photos 6% and Artefacts 7%.

On the assumption that the Club would retain all or some of the Collections, members were asked whether they should be kept in the Clubhouse or placed somewhere else. 72% opted for them to remain in the Clubhouse.

11. Attitudes to membership and other issues

1. 'The Club should reduce its present full member qualification of 20 routes.'

This statement was rejected, 35% disagreeing and 38% disagreeing strongly.

2. 'The system of proposers and seconders is an impediment to people joining and should be scrapped.'

This statement was similarly rejected (39% and 33%)

3. 'The AC should strive to secure as many as possible of the leading British mountaineers as members.'

This statement was strongly endorsed, 30% agreeing and 65% agreeing strongly.

4. 'The AC should strive to secure as many as possible of the world's leading mountaineers as members.'

This statement was also endorsed, though not so strongly, 46% agreeing and 28% agreeing strongly.

5. 'Whether leading climbers or not, the AC should seek out

more members from other countries.'

Members were approximately evenly divided on this issue, 42% agreeing and 11% agreeing strongly, with the other 47% similarly distributed on the disagree side.

6. 'The AC should be more proactive in influencing events in the mountaineering community.'

There was strong agreement here, 55% agreeing and 30% agreeing strongly.

7. 'The AC should take a stronger stance on mountain ethical issues, such as the environment, bolting and the "spirit of mountaineering"'

Again strong endorsement, 44% agreeing and a further 44% agreeing strongly.

12. Sponsorship

1. The suggestion of overall sponsorship of the Club produced a mixed response, 11% agreeing strongly, 41% agreeing, but 29% disagreeing and 19% disagreeing strongly.

2. Sponsorship of specific initiatives, such as the Climbing Fund, gained widespread agreement, 51% agreeing and 36% agreeing strongly.

13. Attitude to major increase in membership

1. The idea of the membership doubling to 2500 was well supported, 53% agreeing and 29% agreeing strongly.

2. A further doubling to 5000 was more controversial but still received endorsement by a small majority: 34% plus 18%.

Conclusions and Action points

Following full discussion of the results in the Committee, the following major actions have been tabled for 2013:

- Actively seek to increase membership and consider ways to make the Club more attractive to young mountaineers and leading mountaineers. Specifically:
- Reach out to members across the country, particularly in Scotland.

- Work further on ensuring that the club is not perceived as old fashioned.

1. Maximise membership benefits and opportunities for networking. In particular bottom out the mountaineering insurance issue, be more pro-active in giving advice to those undertaking self-mounted expeditions and increase awareness of resources such as digital maps and climbs databases.

2. Review and agree plans to improve the accommodation at Charlotte Road so that it is of maximum benefit to the membership.

3. Set up a sub-committee to consider and make recommendations about the Club's future policy on guidebooks.

4. Maximise opportunities to show and conserve the Club's collections and make all reasonable efforts to secure Lottery funds to help with costs.

5. Consider how best to make the Alpine Club a louder voice in influencing events in the mountaineering community and on mountain ethical issues.

Note: the questionnaire, full supporting tables and basic data are available to members on request to the Club office.

ALPINE CLUB PICTURE COLLECTION

This report takes as its starting point the year of the Club's 150th anniversary – 2007 – and continues to a look ahead to 2014 – the year when the current Keeper of Pictures will hand over to John Fairley, a long-standing member and artist whose works illustrated the 2012 *Alpine Journal*. (M = member; A = associate member)



Davie Jamieson, *Mawenzi from Leopard's Notch on Kibo crater rim, Kilimanjaro*, acrylic, 58 x 83cm. Painting shows two RAF Nicosia mountain rescue team casualties, suffering from HACE, about to be rescued by their former team-mates. (*Alpine Club Collection*)

EXHIBITIONS

2006 closed with a selection of beautifully detailed 'Drawings from West Penwith' by **Kit Surrey** (A) that heralded increased activity during the 150th celebrations.

At the start of 2007 the Fell and Rock Climbing Club borrowed works by **Douglas Milner** and **Howard Somervell** to help celebrate their centenary, whilst at Charlotte Road we welcomed **David Bellamy** (A) with his wide-ranging collection of oils and watercolours painted during his extensive travels to the Alps, Greenland, South America and the Himalaya in addition to Britain.

Meanwhile **George Rowlett** (A), who had earlier travelled in John Ruskin's footsteps to the Alps and Lake District, held exhibitions of his highly distinctive, heavily impasto, oils firstly at the Art Space Gallery,

Islington, then at the University of Lancaster and finally at Ruskin's Brantwood home close to lake Coniston.

A busy autumn began with the welcome return of **Rowan Huntley** (A) to the AC. Her 'Rhythms of the Alps' proved highly popular with members and visitors alike, and she sold extensively.

The picture collection was well represented at the ACL's 'Treasures of the Alpine Club' held at Christies, and included the **Bob Lawford Collection** of small works donated to the Club by 15 living artists who are members or associates (see *AJ* 112, 411-12), together with 20 watercolours and early engravings from the Heritage collection.

Soon thereafter the focus shifted to Old Bond St. and the J. Mitchell Gallery where the Bob Lawford Collection and 20 photographs by some of our leading climbers contributed to a celebratory exhibition opened by **Lord (Chris) Smith** (A). The bulk of this exhibition subsequently travelled to the Kendal Mountain Film Festival.

In the spring of 2008 **Tony Riley** (M) and **Sir Chris Bonington** (Hon. M) held an exhibition of their high quality mountain photographs entitled 'Near and Far'.

From early summer until late October 2008 the next exhibitor at the AC was **Polly Townsend**, a prize-winning Slade graduate, whose extensive solo Himalayan travels resulted in a compelling series of almost dreamlike mountain images entitled 'In High Places'.

Simon Pierse (A), currently a vice-president of the Royal Watercolour Society and who, in 2005, had written a scholarly catalogue for the exhibition celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Kangchenjunga by AC members, now held an exhibition of his own watercolours entitled 'Sketches from Gran Paradiso'. These were accompanied by a selection of related photographs from our Heritage collection by **Vittorio Sella**, **A. Gardner**, **S. Spencer** and **R.C.R. Neville**.

Ed Luke, a young climber and photographer, had persuaded a group of the UK's leading climbers to pose for him. He showed the results in early 2009 at an exhibition called 'Rock Stars'. Later in the year he was followed by the charismatic mountain all-rounder **Jim Curran** (M). The show was called 'What Goes Round Comes Round', celebrating Jim's 50 years of mountaineering.

Two of our **Ruskin** watercolours were requested by the commune of Courmayeur for 'Mont Blanc Mania' during the summer of 2009.

Our year ended with 'A Christmas Miscellany', a concept harking back to the earlier days of the Club. Participants included **Joe Arnold** (M) a much-exhibited Wyoming artist/mountaineer who has put up first ascents in the Tetons, **Jim Curran** (again!), **John Fairley** (M), **John Innerdale** (M), **Bill Norton** (M) and **Julia Scott** (A).

2010 opened with Phil Gibson, an artist who has illustrated guidebooks in addition to his studio and plein air watercolours, and **Tim Pollard** (M) who exhibited luminous acrylics and who works at a Special School in Yorkshire, passing on his skills in all fields. Both are highly experienced

and well-travelled mountaineers. They were followed in the autumn by two women mountain artists, **Janet Johnson** (A) – skiing and walking the Haute Route – and **Jean Slee-Smith** (A) – lino prints capturing the geological structures of the mountain scene.

In 2011 **T. H. Somervell's** *Everest from Pang La* was on loan to a major gallery in Madrid.

Autumn of 2012 saw the return of **Rowan Huntley** for 'Alps to Antarctica'. Many of the paintings resulted from a voyage to Antarctica as Artist in Residence on board a Royal Navy Survey Vessel.

As a general rule paintings by living artists shown at the AC are for sale. We hold a preview evening and take a commission of about 25%. This, together with the proceeds from the sale of the first edition of *The Artists of the Alpine Club* and the donation to keep the Lawford collection in the Club's possession (some of which was spent on our new lighting scheme), means that more than £20,000 has been raised in recent years.

ACQUISITIONS

1. Charles Warren bequeathed three watercolours by John Ruskin to the ACL to add to the four he had previously given to the Club's collection whilst he was Keeper of Pictures. They included the magnificent *Grutli Uri Rostock, Lake Lucern*, which may well be the finest Ruskin watercolour in private hands.
2. The Swiss Alpine Club presented *Finsteraarhorn*, a watercolour by G. Ritschard, on the occasion of our 150th anniversary celebrations in Zermatt.
3. The Ski Club of Great Britain gave a ski-mountaineering print *On the Edge* by J. Reid to celebrate our 150th.
4. Two pastels and two watercolours of the Mont Blanc region by N. Jantet.
5. David Bellamy presented a Pyrenean watercolour, *Traverse below Penes Urrieles*, on the occasion of his exhibition.
6. Polly Townsend gave us an oil, *Blue Plateau 1*, in 2008.
7. John Dugger (A) donated one of his striking banners, *Grand Teton*, also in 2008.
8. *Matterhorn*, an oil by J. G. Muller, was bequeathed by Lord Hunt.
9. Rob Piercy donated the watercolour *Eiger, North Face* following his earlier exhibition.
10. We acquired a watercolour, *Eiger and Mönch*, by C. G. Heathcote (AC Hon Sec in 1869) together with another, *From Eagle's Nest*, dated 1897, by M. Monkswell.
11. We bought an oil, *Grand Teton Canyon*, from Joe Arnold (M) after his exhibition.
12. Jim Curran (M) presented a watercolour, *Windgather Rocks III*.
13. We purchased Phil Gibson's watercolour *Tryfan from Y Garn* and Tim Pollard's acrylic *Aiguille Verte* after their show.
14. We were offered four detailed watercolours of the Cuillin Ridge by Charles Pilkington (AC President 1896) and decided to acquire them.
15. S. Ward, who was on Himalayan expeditions in 1960 and 1965, donated



John Ruskin (1819-1900), *Grütli, Urstock from Lake Lucerne*, watercolour pencil, pen and ink, 37x52cm. (Alpine Club Collection)

four oils by a local artist, C. B. Manandhar, of Pokara Lake, Machapuchare, Annapurna II (1st Ascent), Dhaulagiri IV and Everest.

16. Davie Jamieson (M) who was on several RAFMA expeditions in the 1960s has donated three of his paintings celebrating those expeditions: *Mawenzi from Leopard's Notch on Kibo crater rim*, *Kilimanjaro* (Acrylic), *Mount Kenya from the air* (oil), *Stetind, Norway* (oil).

FUTURE PLANS

Leslie Ayres (M): Mountain guide in Norway, artist and writer. An exhibition of his works and lecture at Charlotte Rd, 8 Oct. to Dec. 2013.

Julian Cooper (M): 10 Alpine oil paintings of peaks climbed by AC members during the 'Golden Age'. At AC Charlotte Rd, 11 March to June 2014. (Images used as chapter headings in this *AJ*.)

The loan of two of our **Ruskin's** has been requested by The National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa for 'John Ruskin: Writer and Observer', Feb, to May 2014. They are scheduled to move to The Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh from July to Sept. 2014.

We also intend to continue the conservation of the collection and hope to improve the storage facilities.

Peter Mallalieu, Keeper of Pictures

ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Hywel Lloyd, Chairman of the Council of Trustees of the Alpine Club Library writes: The year 2012 commenced with a Trustees' review, prompted by discussion at the recent Club AGM. The Trustees agreed the Library had to remain located at the Club headquarters. It was agreed, also, that the Library – entrusted with the care of the Club's collections of books, archives, photographs, and artefacts – should be proactive and take a 'Road show' out to our members in other parts of the UK. Small exhibitions in various locations would achieve this, but travel and insurance costs must be within available budgets. Peter Rowland, the new Keeper of the Photographs, started to build a set of high quality photographic prints to exhibit. The year closed as we set up our first regional exhibition at Frenchay, near Bristol, opening in January of 2013 and running for three months.

An AC sub-committee, chaired by Roger James, planned a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to scan and catalogue the Club's collection of 40,000 historic images; a vast task. High-resolution scans would protect images for posterity, enable members to view them, and provide illustrations for books. The Library quantified the proposed work accurately; we investigated costs and methods, catalogue software, Internet issues, and we conducted trials. By the autumn, we had assembled a business plan, and very detailed proposal for the HLF with all supporting documents. However, the HLF were making changes to their rules; they suggested that the Club postponed submission until 2013 when new rules – likely to be more favourable to us – would apply.

Activity in the Archives, led by the Hon Archivist, Glyn Hughes, continued unabated. The Peter Oliver diary, compiled when he was on the Everest expedition in 1936, purchased by the Library at auction, contained many delightful sketches of members of the team; these were scanned. We have a hand-written note by Edward Lear (the poet and artist); its provenance and connection with AC President, William Mathews, was investigated. Tim Healey, widower of Eileen Healey, née Gregory, Ladies Alpine Club, found more of her diaries in an attic; we have scanned these and they contain her later trips, including a nearly all-female Himalayan expedition to the Bara Shigri glacier in Himachal Pradesh and a honeymoon ascent of the south wall of the Romsdalshorn in Norway with Tim and Arne Randeers Heen. These and many, many other Archive items can be seen by appointment with Glyn.

The book collections continue to grow; we always welcome donations of books. For example now on the shelves is a comprehensive set of guidebooks for planning trips, a full set of Mount Everest Foundation expedition reports, and a full set (one missing at the moment) of the Boardman-Tasker prize winning volumes. Many researchers from home and overseas visit to prepare books and articles; one visitor this year was Huw Lewis-Jones who this year co-authored *The Conquest of Everest* with George Lowe (*see reviews in this AJ*).

Following the death of George Band, my predecessor as Chairman of the Trustees, we were delighted, and grateful, to receive an unexpected bequest; this will help finance the 'Road shows' planned for next year.

Members are reminded that the Library is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm (except during August and Christmas week); appointments are possible on other days. Catalogues of books and archives are available via the AC website. Lastly, I must thank all the volunteers who put in so much time and effort to make all the Library operations as professional as possible.

ALPINE CLUB CLIMBING FUND

AC grants were made to the following expeditions that took place in 2012: * denotes report elsewhere in this journal.

British Peak 41 Expedition Hinku valley, Nepal, October-November 2012; Rob Greenwood (leader) and Jack Geldard. Aim: alpine-style ascent of the previously unclimbed north face of Peak 41 (6654m). *

Nepalese Yalung Glacier Expedition eastern Nepal, 17 October - 5 December 2012; Gavin Pike (leader), James Clapham and Dave Searle. Aim: North Pillar of Talung (7349m), an 1800m pillar on the unclimbed north face. *

British Chamlang Expedition Hongu valley, Nepal, 30 September - 4 December 2012; Andy Houseman and Nick Bullock. *

Scottish Zaskar Expedition Ladakh, India, July - August; Susan Jensen (leader), Des Rubens, Steve Kennedy, Bob Hamilton, Helen Copeland and Paul Sweinton. Aim: ascents of unclimbed peaks. *

Rimo III South Face Expedition Indian Karakoram, 11 August - 30 September; Malcolm Bass (leader), Paul Figg, Simon Yearsley and Rachel Antill. *

Altai Expedition Russia, 11-26 August 2012; George Cave (leader), Clay Conlon, Eleri Dawson and Greg Annadale. *

Timmiarmiut East Greenland Expedition Timmiarmiut Fjord, Greenland, 1-31 August 2012; Matt Traver (leader), Mike Royer, Steve Beckwith and Matt Bunn. *

North Wales Greenland Expedition NW Greenland, July - August 2012; Dave Rudkin (leader), Lee Roberts and Olly Sanders. Aim: To attempt new alpine and big wall ascents on granite faces.

Cambridge Tien Shan Expedition Kyrgyzstan, 28 July - 18 August 2012; Dave Farrow (leader), Jo Smith, Michael Fordham, Bethan Gudgeon, Tom Wright, Doug Hull, Matthew Graham and Jo Hobbs. Aim: To explore and climb 4000-4500m peaks at the head of the Shamsi Tuyuk valley. *

British Mount Combatant Expedition Canadian Coastal Range, 1-31 July 2012; Peter Graham (leader) and Malcolm Scott. Aim: to attempt new routes on the 450m Incisor Tower on the south side of Mount Combatant.

Imperial College Alaska Expedition Wrangell-St Elias National Park, 4 June - 8 July 2012; Sara ArbósTorrent (leader), Boris Korzh, Sam Thompson, Arnaud Sors. *

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Three more internationally renowned climbers have been appointed honorary members of the Alpine Club since publication of the last *Journal*.

Slovenian **Marko Prezelj** (48) received the inaugural *Piolet d'Or* in 1992 with Andrej Štremfelj for a new route on the south ridge of Kangchenjunga South (8476m), alpine style, but rejected a second award in 2007 (for the first ascent of Chomolhari's north-west pillar with Boris Lorencic) with a warning to climbers about the corroding effect of competition and the danger of becoming addicted to 'Miss Fame'. 'It is not possible to judge another person's climb objectively,' he declared.

Marko's appetite for new hard routes appears undimmed, on rock and in the big mountains. In 2009 he climbed new routes on Bhagirathi IV, III and II and the following year on the Bisotun Wall in Iran. In 2011 he attempted the west face of Makalu, reaching 7000m.

As guest speaker at the AC's annual dinner at the Shap Wells Hotel, Cumbria on 1 December 2012, he returned to his theme of the futility of trying to judge one climb against another. Sharing experiences on the mountains was a delicate art, he said.

'Mountains change from season to season, from day to day and from day to night. The longer I look, the more I know that the mountains are just mirrors of my own feelings, a canvas for our ideas, a playground for being with people who make me happy and people who respect honesty and spontaneity, driven by passionate curiosity.

All these elements can be destroyed by competition and crude comparisons.

'Sharing the joy, curiosity and doubt makes me happy. I'm only afraid of the exaggerated pride, vanity and narcissism that have followed alpinism from its early days. Experiences on the mountains are so personal and so transient that it is really impossible to transmit their authenticity. It is like burning fire – after the experience is finished there is only smoke and ashes left.'

Both the other new Hon Members are Americans. Author and photographer **John Roskelley** (64), from Spokane, Washington, made the first ascent of Great Trango Tower with Galen Rowell in 1977, just one in a string of impressive routes in Nepal, India and Pakistan through the 1970s and '80s. In 1995, with Tim Macartney-Snape and Stephen Venables, he summited Mount Sarmiento, Tierra del Fuego, via a new route up the south-west face of the western summit.

For sheer profusion of new routes though, it would be hard to beat **Fred Beckey** (90). Born in Germany and raised in Seattle, where he still lives, Fred's earliest first ascent was Forbidden Peak in the North Cascades in 1940 and he has been climbing continuously ever since. In 2011, Patagonia published *Fred Beckey's 100 Favorite North American Climbs*. It is reviewed in this *AJ*, page 352. Quite a tick list! *SG*