

IN MEMORIAM

The Club records with regret the death of the following members :

Mr Brian F. Davies (A 1964)	Mr Archibald G. Mitchell (OL 1961)
Mr Ralph A. Gerstenberg (OL 1950)	Mr Myles Morrison (OL 1930)
Mr Derek C. Gilbert (O 1978)	Mrs Elizabeth R. Newton (O 1979)
Mr Lewis L. McAllan (OL 1948)	Miss Greta Sumner (OL 1961)

RALPH A. GERSTENBERG

Ralph, President of the Cairngorm Club from 1984-1988, died on September 27, 1993 aged 94. He came to Aberdeen from Glasgow in 1932 as the first local manager of the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society. In recognition of his hard work and business skills he was duly chosen by his colleagues to be President of the Aberdeen Insurance Institute. He retired in 1962.

Ralph joined the Cairngorm Club in 1950 and threw himself into its activities with enthusiasm. This, along with his helpfulness and energy was soon recognised and he was elected to the committee, and became Vice-President and President all in the space of seven years from 1958 to 1964. He carried out these duties with his customary charm and with apparent ease. It was during his presidency that around 1966 the lease for Derry Lodge came up for renewal. Despite prolonged negotiations with Mar Lodge Estate the Club failed to obtain acceptable conditions, a great disappointment to Ralph who had worked so hard to that end.

For a number of years, until advancing age began to take its toll, he seldom missed a Club meet and his outgoing and cheerful personality made him popular with fellow members of all ages. He had a particular knack of creating a fire from dry heather, sometimes on a swiftly-constructed island of stones in a burn, and would brew up tea in his battered kettle even in the worst of weather. Walking, talking and sharing with him the sights and sounds of the hills in all their moods was always a pleasure.

Ralph's friendly and happy manner marked him out as a special person whom it was a delight and a privilege to have known. We also remember his wife, Grace, and her interest in the social events of the Club, and we extend to her, and her daughters, our sincere sympathy.

S.M.

LEWIS L. McALLAN

Lewis joined the Club in 1948 and was a regular attender of bus meets. He was a Local Government man who served in the legal department all his working years, latterly as Director of Law and Administration. Lewis simply loved to sing in choirs, the Haddo Choir being perhaps his favourite.

On the death of David Gordon of Haddo he undertook the duty of treasurer to the Trust then created – a task he performed with the utmost dedication. His keen interest in railways sent him on numerous journeys, providing material for articles he wrote for railway publications. Bad health drained his energy and he died very sadly, still hoping and looking forward to walking again. We remember him with great kindness.

I.F.F.

ELIZABETH. R. NEWTON

Elizabeth was born in Hengelo, Overijssel in 1928 and lived through the deprivations of occupied Holland during the Second World War. She trained as a meteorologist at Amsterdam University and Imperial College, London, and was then appointed to the Colonial Office who directed her first to Kenya, then Uganda. She recalled a KLM pilot being quite confused when approaching Entebbe Airport, to hear the weather report being given to him in Dutch, and by a woman meteorologist, unusual itself in the 1950s. Here she met and married Dick who worked in the Uganda Government Game and Fisheries Department, and their three children were all born in Uganda.

The family came to live in Banchory-Devenick in 1962 and Elizabeth soon became involved in local issues, working enthusiastically at whatever cause she felt deserved support. Over the years these included the Stroke Club, the Kincardine and Deeside Community Council and numerous fund-raising projects. She relished the introduction of the computer to the Citizens Advice Bureau, and her skill in mastering it was further developed when she bought her own, using it to enrich life when physical disability became poor.

Elizabeth joined the Cairngorm Club in 1979 and attended bus meets regularly, originally often with her son. She was never a Munro-bagger, preferring interesting deviations from the more popular routes, particularly if a Trig Point could be visited. She was a stimulating companion on the hills, keenly observant and with a wealth of interesting anecdotes. She recorded accurate details of every walk, even in appalling weather, all later concisely described in her notebook. She was a committee member from 1987-1989.

Her final illness was borne with amazing courage. Friends were unanimous in admitting that after a visit or telephone chat, they had gained more than they had given. Most bravely too she carefully scanned the memorabilia of her life and discarded what she felt was of no use to others. She is survived by Dick and her grown-up children who supported her so lovingly in her last year.

R.W.