

In 1996 Bill was honoured by his Alma Mater with the award of the Honorary Degree of Master of the University, an occasion shared with his family.

Throughout his life Bill was an enthusiastic photographer and has left a wealth of photographs and slides, along with many climbing books and papers, for his family to enjoy. His infectious enthusiasm for the natural world continues on to the third generation; Ruari, is a member of the student mountaineering club at Glasgow University, Harris, is a keen birdwatcher and Finlay, enjoys canoeing and canoe polo.

In the last few years of his life Bill was wheelchair bound. He coped with that in an extraordinary fashion, and never complained. He remained a hugely sociable character, enjoying Probus, monthly meetings with old friends, and was always warmly welcoming all those who visited. He continued to show a lively interest in other peoples's adventures.

In 2011 Bill died peacefully after a long debilitating illness. He died with a great feeling of having had a happy life, well fulfilled. We all walk together and Bill was rightly proud of his family. His influence lives on.

*Margaret Brooker*

(See *The Climbing Life of Bill Brooker*, page 71)

## **DONALD HAWKSWORTH**

Donald was most widely known as a notable pianist and organist, but he was also a dedicated mountaineer. Born in Yorkshire in 1930, he studied at the Royal College of Music in London. His first teaching post was at Brechin High School, followed by a move to Aberdeen Grammar School. Subsequently, he became the Music Advisor for the local education authority and an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

With his colleagues, Ian Stephen (a longstanding Club member), James Will and Patrick Scott, Donald was the driving force in running the AGS Hillwalking Club, which took many boys to the

hills. They accomplished some quite serious climbs. For example, they traversed the Aonach Eagach ridge (a school expedition that these days would involve a mountain of paperwork, if allowed at all), and overnight expeditions saw groups traversing the four four-thousanders in the Cairngorms. One of the pupils involved was Andrew Nisbet, the immediate past President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club.

On the hill, Donald's demeanour was always calm and collected, an excellent example for schoolboys, or indeed more mature fellow-mountaineers. He is recalled ascending Ben Macdui beside the Taillear's Burn at a steady Alpine-paced zigzag, hands behind the back, the epitome of good mountaineering practice. He also had those essential skills of organisation and command that maximise the pleasure and experience for everyone. He also allowed a schoolboy to lead a party through a virtual white-out on the Beinn a' Bhuidr plateau with map and compass in hand – a terrific boost to self-confidence when one was too young to notice a schoolmaster taking an interest in the safety of the group from not too far away. On the other hand, in more refined company, a female Cairngorm Club member recalls Donald offering “ladies first” when it came to breaking through an Invergarry snow cornice!

Donald joined the Cairngorm Club in 1958, acted as Librarian in 1969-70, and in 1969 took on the Editorship of this Journal in what he called a moment of weakness, producing four issues over 10 years. He completed the Munros in 1967 (and the Furths two years later), being no. 72 in the List. The climbs that he accomplished in Scotland are too many to list, but include Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis, and a two-day traverse of the main Cuillin Ridge. A final article from Donald in the previous issue of this Journal recalls “wandering up” the Inaccessible Pinnacle in 1956, then over the Cioch, Sgurr Alasdair's ‘bad step’, and finally traversing the Dubhs from Loch Coruisk. Even aged nearly eighty, he managed to ascend Skye's most northerly hill – Meall na Suiramach, a “Marilyn”.

In the Alps, he climbed the Matterhorn in 1966, Mont Blanc in 1968 and the Gran Paradiso in 1971. On summer climbing courses, he ascended various other Alpine peaks by harder routes, for example one of the faces of the Obergabelhorn above Zermatt. After retirement, he visited the base camps of several major mountains in

the Himalayas and elsewhere, for example Everest from both the Nepal and Tibet sides, K2, and Kanchenjunga, and he completed a circuit of Annapurna. In addition, he had trekking holidays in Bhutan, Sikkim, Africa, the Andes, Patagonia, and the Milford Trail in New Zealand. Until 2012, Cyprus seemed to be one of the few places in Europe that he had not had the chance to visit, so it is pleasant to record that he took his final holiday there during February that year, a month before his death.

Donald invariably did his utmost to mix his two main interests of music and mountaineering. Finger exercises on a Glen Nevis Youth Hostel table were not to practise a tricky rock move but to keep his fingers supple for piano playing. A trip to Glentamar saw him nipping into St. Lesmo's chapel for a Toccata and Fugue on the small organ there, and a certain arpeggio passage in Chopin's F Minor Ballade was compared by him to the huge pinnacle which once blocked the west ridge of Sgurr nan Gillean. In later life at least, he appreciated good food: his article "Gourmandising in Skye" in the Journal issue mentioned above records mouth-watering menus in the better restaurants of that island!

Many people enjoyed Donald's mountaineering in Scotland and elsewhere through his slideshows – a reliable mainstay in the social programmes of many a club and society. Delivered with erudition and wit, Donald's presentations took one on a delightful tour des montagnes, embroidered not with dashing tales of exertion and foolhardiness but with a deep appreciation of the mountains, their scenery and their people, over all seven continents. As with his music, so with his mountaineering: Donald was a man who enjoyed giving pleasure to others. We will miss his genial company but we will not forget it.

*Ken Thomson*