

WILLIAM BROOKER

Bill Brooker was born in 1931, in Calcutta, where his father was an engineer. In 1940 his mother, with Bill and his brother, returned to Scotland whilst his father remained in India until 1945.

As a boy Bill had enormous energy. He enjoyed his time at Aberdeen Grammar School, becoming a Prefect, Vice Captain of Byron House, Captain of Swimming and Athletics, and a member of the First Fifteen. He grew tall, strong and well coordinated. He was an enthusiastic scout, and spent many hours on Deeside with the "Senior Patrol" of the first Aberdeen Scout Troop. His mother rented a cottage in Aboyne for the school holidays, and there he explored the hills, where his love of nature and landscape were fostered. It was a natural move then to study geography at Aberdeen University. There he pursued his passion for climbing and he also took part in many other aspects of student life.

In 1959 Bill and I married, and first we lived in Banffshire, and then, with our son Iain, we moved for a three year spell to Cyprus. The Mediterranean climate meant more time outdoors, on the beach, swimming, snorkelling and learning to water ski. There were trips to Egypt, Jordan, Crete and mainland Greece where he was fascinated by the ancient world.

In 1965 the family, now including our daughter Fiona, returned home and settled in Aberdeen. Bill's enthusiasm for the outdoors led to the family climbing, walking, bird watching and skiing. We explored parts of Scotland and abroad. Highlights included island hopping in the Hebrides using an inflatable speedboat, skiing in the Alps, and climbing in the Pyrenees and Picos de Europa. Bill climbed the Black Tusk in the Garibaldi National Park, British Columbia.

In the 1980's Bill and I began to tick off the Munros in the company of various friends from our base in Boat of Garten. There were some special trips; Yosemite where we climbed up Half Dome to watch the sunrise, the Dolomites with SMC friends, a six week holiday in New Zealand where Iain and his wife were working for 2 years. This included a coastal walk in Abel Tasman Park, a traverse of the Southern Alps via the Copeland Saddle in stunning conditions and a trip to Fiordland and the Routeburn track.

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