

IN MEMORIAM

The Club notes with regret the deaths of the following members since the publication of the previous Journal (with dates of admission to the Club and of Club service and type of Club membership).

William Barlow (1973, Ordinary, Com 77-80, 89-92)

John Clegg (1980, Ordinary)

Roger Cookson (2013, Associate)

Jean Downie (1975, Ordinary Life)

Graham Ewen (1966, Honorary, Bus Sec 67-03, VP 77-80, Hon Pres 09-13)

Geoffrey Hadley (2006, Associate)

John Hargreaves (1978, Ordinary Life)

Carol Henderson (2005, Associate)

Michael Hewitt (2003, Ordinary)

Sheila Lowit (1975, Associate)

Ian Spence (1982, Ordinary, Com 72-75,76-78)

BILL BARLOW

Bill was born in 1925 on a farm near Auchterless in Aberdeenshire, the son of a farm worker and one of a family of 10. He left Auchterless school at 14, becoming an apprentice electrician. In his twenties he sustained a back injury at work which required surgery, after which he was unable to continue as an electrician.

Bill then studied successfully for 'Highers', going on to achieve a degree in chemistry at Aberdeen University. After a short spell teaching in schools he moved to Aberdeen Technical College. He was a very active member of the teachers' union and for his work as General Secretary for the north east he was made a Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland, an honour of which he was immensely proud.

Bill joined the Cairngorm Club in 1973 and it was during a spell on the committee that Bill, with others, was instrumental in developing the weekend meets as we know them today. Prior to this time there was only one weekend meet per year at Easter and the accommodation was always in a hotel. It was through the Club that Bill met Dot Batchelor and they became best friends completing their Munros together in 1985 with Bill, by this time, enjoying the benefit of an artificial hip. He set out to do a round on the new hip and got within 30 of the target.

On 7 July 1977 Bill, along with Murray Smith, completed the six high tops of the Cairngorms. Leaving Muir Cottage at 2 am, they spent an incredible day covering 30 miles and over 10,000 feet of ascent, starting with Cairn Toul and finishing on Ben Avon. The day was hot and sunny but interrupted in the afternoon by a fierce thunderstorm, complete with huge hailstones. They returned to Muir at around 4 pm, totally elated. Bill also walked and climbed with Ian Spence covering much of the Cuillin Ridge including a number of tops.

Bill and Dot spent several walking holidays in Europe, climbing the highest peaks in several of the European mountain ranges including Mount Olympus. On a trip to the USA they also climbed Mount Washington.

It is true to say that Bill had a bit of a competitive streak, especially when walking with Duncan Macrae-Gibson. Each

pretended that it didn't matter who got to the top first but it was amusing to watch from behind – always from behind – and see who managed to touch the cairn first!

Bill was also interested in local history and geology, interests he pursued mainly while waiting for the operation on his hip. In later years as his mobility decreased he was unable to get to his beloved hills. However he still kept active, walking every day, and was always interested in other people's exploits in the hills. Bill died in December 2013.

Anne Pinches

JEAN DOWNIE

Jean (nee Smith) was born in Buckie, on the 25th of April, 1931. From an early age she showed both musical talent and academic ability at school. She passed the Grade eight examination in piano and singing. As a teenager she played the organ at the Episcopalian Church in Buckie and, in the evenings, piano in a local dance band. However her main talent lay in singing and after winning a competition in the Aberdeen Music Festival she broadcast a song recital from the BBC Beechgrove studio, at the age of nineteen. From that Jean progressed to be the leading soprano in the St.Machar's Cathedral choir. At the same time she was heading for a science-based career. In 1951 she graduated BSc from Aberdeen University (physics, maths, geology), then qualified as a teacher and embarked on her first job at Aberdeen Girls High School in 1952. Thereafter she taught at the Middle Secondary School, Gallowgate, The Convent of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, Queen's Cross and joined Aberdeen Grammar School, then Rubislaw Academy, in 1971. Two years later Jean became Assistant Rector and retired in 1990.

In 1957 Jean married George Downie, a geologist at Aberdeen University and together they travelled extensively – to Iceland, Greenland, Arctic Norway, Antarctica, Austria, Italy and Spain. They also went to Zambia, Zimbabwe and in the USA to Montana and the Grand Canyon. Many of these trips involved high level walking, in

Zimbabwe and Sweden for example, and cross country skiing in Norway. Jean was a Life Member of the Cairngorm Club from 1975 and with George walked and skied extensively in the Cairngorms. She also shared George's enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing.

Throughout her teaching career Jean's singing developed, culminating in the operatic roles of Papagena in the Magic Flute, Susanna in the Marriage of Figaro, Fiordiligi in *Così fan Tutti* and the solo soprano part in the Messiah, the latter performed in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

In retirement her interest in gardening extended to an allotment and she also took up painting. Jean died in May 2013 after a long illness. She was a remarkable Renaissance Woman whose intelligence, warmth and empathy made her an outstanding teacher and friend.

George Downie and Angus Aitken

GRAHAM EWEN

In Graham's death on 7 November 2013, at the age of 73, the Club has lost a member who followed his father (Bill Ewen) in serving the Club for several decades, as recognised first by Honorary Membership, and then the Honorary Presidency from 2009. Graham formally joined the Club in 1966, but was in fact a well-known if diminutive participant in its activities long before that, as he and his younger brother Innes accompanied his father and family on holidays and working parties at Derry Lodge, Muir and elsewhere on Deeside.

Graham was born in Torphins, grew up in Aberdeen, and attended Mile End School and then Robert Gordon's College. He took a degree in geography at Aberdeen University, and went on to become a schoolteacher in the city, actively engaged in outdoor education. His indoor interests included the Aberdeen Bridge Club (where a trophy is named after him), and genealogy via the local Family History Society.

Only a year after joining the Club, Graham became the Club's Bus Meets Secretary, a post he held for a record 36 years. He also

served as Vice-President between 1977 and 1980. His long reign as Bus Secretary not only made him a well-known figure amongst many members, but a mine of information on the road conditions and eating facilities of Deeside and elsewhere within range of Aberdeen. Always the last to leave the bus (for many years supplied by Swallow Tours of Old Aberdeen, with Mr Sandy Duguid at the wheel), he usually walked by himself, but was invariably at the vehicle early at the end of the day, even on A-to-B walks. The post involves occasional problems, such as travel uncertainties and late returners, but Graham's way of dealing with these was utterly reliable. Throughout most of his life – except, perhaps strangely, during his student years – he maintained a scrupulous set of notes on his hill walking activities: unlike his father, he was never a climber.

Many members have fond memories of Graham's long service to the Club. Here are three typical examples. "On Bus Meets Graham always occupied the same seat on the coach, a distinctive figure clad in decidedly retro hill walking clothes with rucksack to match. He quietly noted the departure and return of us all".

"One of my fond memories of Graham relates to his navigation abilities on the hills. He once confided, in typically pithy manner, how, on an overnight meet on the west coast in the '60s and at a critical summit, he had had to differ with two senior members of the Club on the route back. Graham, as he put it, got safely to the bus and his lunch, whilst the others got to Kinlochhourn and were left having to summon a taxi!"

The Editor records; when I was preparing the previous issue of the Journal, Graham was due to submit his article "The Moor of Inverey". He was ill and found it difficult to work, so as anyone would I waited and delayed publication. Then came word that the text was available so I telephoned to offer to collect it from Graham's house. Within no time at all Graham called at my house, looking very ill indeed and apologetically handed me the text and disc of his article. He died a few months later.

In his latter years, Graham spent much effort, often with Eddie Martin, researching the history of the Mar Estate from the Duff House Papers in Aberdeen University Library. The results of this work appeared in several articles in previous issues of this Journal and are listed below.

Appendix	volume (issue no)	year	pages
Inverey	19 (101)	1988	34-40
Glen Ey, a History	20 (103)	1994	86-94
Dalmore	20 (104)	1996	190-197
Allanaquoich	20 (105)	1999	324-334
Old Maps of the Cairngorms	21 (106)	2001	32-39
Inverey and the Farquharsons	21 (107)	2004	120-129
Inverey and the Duffs,	21 (108)	2007	243-251
Derry Lodge	21 (109)	2011	317-327
The Moor of Inverey	22 (110)	2013	83-99
Corriemulzie	22 (111)	2015	246-253
(with Eddie Martin)			

The Ewen family have reprinted all these articles, with an Introduction by Graham's brother Innes, and additional photographs, in a well-produced book *Upper Deeside*, which can be obtained via the website blur.by/1s2ludx

Ken Thomson

GEOFFREY HADLEY

Geoff Hadley was born in Stoke-on-Trent in 1932. He graduated from Birmingham and Nottingham Universities and came to Aberdeen University in 1960 as Senior Lecturer in the Botany Department, where he specialised in Mycology (fungi). His caring approach to the students, and his enthusiasm, made him a greatly appreciated member of staff. He also entered local government as an Independent Councillor for Lower Deeside in 1973, going on to become Convener of Grampian Region from 1986 to 1990. Geoff became involved in many other activities as Chair of a number of Committees including the Grampian Heart Campaign, Aberdeen Civic Society, the Grampian Houston Association and many others. His personal interests included cycling, cricket, especially following the fortunes of his beloved England team, restoring old Volvo cars, and even at one time rebuilding his old house in Old Aberdeen. He edited the British Mycological Journal for some years and was

awarded MBE for his services to Mycology in 1999. For some years, before ill health limited his activities, he was an active member of the Cairngorm Club and attended many midweek walks. With his wide knowledge and warm approach to others he was always good company. He is greatly missed by his friends in this Club and, of course, by his three daughters and his widow Margaret.

James Friend.

JOHN HARGREAVES

John Hargreaves died peacefully at Glen o' Dee hospital in Banchory on the 14th February 2015. John was born in Colne in Lancashire in 1926 and met and married Sheila in 1950. After two years teaching History at Manchester University they travelled to Sierra Leone where he taught for two years at Fourah Bay College in Freetown.

The family, by then of four, travelled from West Africa to North East Scotland in 1954 where John took up a post as lecturer in History at Aberdeen University; he was later to become Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

John joined the Cairngorm Club in the mid fifties and Sheila joined him later. His love of the Scottish hills began with a trip to Poolewe when he was undergoing army training and grew throughout his life. John enjoyed many CC expeditions and weekend meets on his own, with Sheila and latterly with his daughter as well as numerous other expeditions in the hills.

John's final ascent of a Munro was in 1995 when he tackled Ben Wyvis with his daughter and three of her friends as part of the University's Quincentenary Munro Team Challenge. After this his neuropathy gradually made walking more and more difficult for him, but he valiantly continued to walk, first with sticks and then with arm crutches, before being confined to a wheelchair.

John's love of the hills is immortalised in his poetry.

Sara Hargreaves

CAROL HENDERSON

Carol Mary Henderson was born in Fonthill, Aberdeen on 26 March 1962 and she spent most of her life in the Aberdeen area. Carol trained and worked as a dental nurse, a job she loved. She was always ready to offer help to anyone in need and her cheery nature is something anyone one who knew her will always remember.

I met Carol at the Muir Family's Week in 2004 which she was attending as guest. She joined the Club the following year and was to become a regular at Burns' suppers and brought in several New Years at Muir as well as making it to quite a few of the day and weekend meets.

Carol started hill walking in her late teens, going on the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team sponsored walk with her mother. It was something she immediately took a liking for and soon became one of the regulars at the Braemar and Inverey youth hostels. She was also a keen cyclist, commuting between Westhill and Aberdeen, which saw her in good stead for a cycle tour of Yugoslavia at the beginning of the 90s. Latterly she took up paddling and much to her embarrassment, by virtue of being the only woman in an open canoe, managed to win the Ladies Open Boat trophy for the Dee Marathon, now known as the Carol Henderson Memorial Trophy.

After a break from hill walking to raise her son Calum, Carol's enthusiasm for the hills returned; Knoydart was probably one of her favourite places. She was less keen on exposed summits, such as those in the Cuillin of Skye, but she was nevertheless slowly ticking off the Munros, and achieved all but 19 of them. Carol died tragically in Westhill on 28th June 2013.

Garry Wardrope

MICHAEL HEWITT

Mike was born in Aldershot in May 1940. He came up to Aberdeen University in 1958 to study engineering and also joined the University's Officer Training Corps where he met his future wife Kath. On graduating in 1962 he joined the Torry Research Station in Aberdeen where he worked for a PhD. A post with Fishery Development Ltd. London, followed, but he returned to Aberdeen in 1982, joining Refrigeration Aberdeen, eventually becoming Managing Director. Freelance Consultancy followed, which, as with all his previous jobs, entailed extensive travel and projects with the World Bank.

Mike was always involved with the AUOTC and the Territorial Army, rising to the rank of Major. It was through these connections that he developed his outdoor interests of hill walking, skiing and sports shooting. Mike was also a keen golfer and an active member of Aberdeen Civic Society, acting as Chairman for a time. He was a member of a small, informal (some would say contrary) group of friends, several of whom he had met and trained through the AUOTC, which undertook many expeditions, all round Scotland and sometimes further afield. Mike was a stalwart of these meets. On one occasion, disregarding an operation on his foot, he accompanied the group up Munros with a sandal on the repaired foot, which allowed a steel pin to poke out of his big toe. He is also remembered with fondness for the way he undertook a foray up Kerloch to test his fitness after a triple heart bypass operation. Mike took all such setbacks in his stride, except one, passing the first pub unvisited after a day on the hill. Beware anyone who would suggest that!

Following the loss of some members from the group, its activity declined and some survivors joined the Cairngorm Club. Mike joined in 2003 and walked regularly on bus and weekend meets until his health failed. His last active attendance was on the Lochnagar meet in the January of 2013. He died suddenly but peacefully on December 29th 2013 at home. He is survived by his wife and three children, Kate and Deborah and Ross and four grandchildren.

Sandy McIntosh

SHEILA LOWIT

Sheila (O'Neill) was born in Edinburgh on 23rd August 1926. She met Ian at a harvest Summer camp after graduating as a Home Economics teacher and they married in 1951 at Morningside Church in Edinburgh. She was a keen Scottish country dancer and a fantastic cook. Sheila was a friend to everyone and a real home-maker for her family and any waifs and strays that she took under her wing. She joined the Cairngorm Club in 1975, two years after Ian.

She was not a dedicated hill walker and became even less enchanted after an overnigher in the pouring rain with Ian. Her interests were flora and fauna, but her passion was for cooking and catering for larger parties of people. For many years we had a family week at Muir the week before the beginning of the Autumn term. Each family cooked for one night and looked after the younger children while the parents ventured forth to the higher and distant hills. Sheila was the one who organised the menus to avoid having steak pie every night. In our younger days we had work weeks, as opposed to work weekends, to maintain and clean Muir Cottage. Again, Sheila was involved with the catering, producing tea and coffee at the appropriate times as well as working on hands and knees scrubbing the floor. Sheila valued the friendship and camaraderie that she found in the Club over the many years that she was a member. She died very suddenly on 26th April 2013 and is sadly missed by her husband Ian, children Peter, Michael and Gillian and by all those who were acquainted with her.

Eddie Martin

IAN SPENCE

Ian was born in Aberdeen in 1933. A pupil at Robert Gordon's College, he excelled in rugby and swimming, continuing these interests long after leaving school. He was a member of the Scottish swimming team which won the Bologna Trophy (1950, 1951) and of the British team in Turin at the European Championships(1954). He was also selected twice to play rugby for the Barbarians touring team in the 1963/64 season. (Founded in 1890, the Barbarians rugby team is assembled annually by invitation to play a selection of prestigious matches. The players have represented their country, but in each selection one uncapped player may be included, thus conferring a great honour on the individual).

Ian went to Jordanhill College and trained as a PE teacher, after which he signed on for 5 years in the RAF for his National Service where he learned to parachute. He was attached to the Parachute Regiment in Aldershot where he trained the soldiers, as well as managing to fit in about 100 jumps himself. After his service career Ian returned to Aberdeen in 1960 to teach PE at Aberdeen Academy and then Aberdeen Grammar School. Ian's final job was at Hazlehead Academy where his main role was Assistant Head Teacher but he still taught some PE before retiring in 1990.

As a teacher Ian touched the lives of hundreds of young people, not only in the day to day contact with them but through extra-curricular activities where he made an even bigger difference to their lives by giving them the opportunity to experience some activities that they could carry into adult life, and may also themselves have passed on to others. He introduced skiing, sailing and SCUBA diving in addition to hill walking and, most important of all, the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Ian's involvement with hill walking goes back to when he joined the staff of Aberdeen Grammar School and got involved with the hill walking club there, which incidentally was run by a number of Cairngorm Club members – Donald Hawksworth, James Will and Ian Stephen. It was at Hazlehead Academy to which he moved in 1976 that he developed the Duke of Edinburgh Award, enriching the lives of staff and pupils. He was awarded the MBE for his services to the Award in 2001.

Ian was a member of the Cairngorm Club for many years and served on the committee twice. It was on a Club Easter Meet to Dundonnell in 1973 that Ian completed his Munros on An Teallach. Those present, including the President Sheila Murray, remember joining him on the summit and being treated to a dram and a selection of tasty snacks. Ian did some walking and climbing abroad, including the ascent of the Matterhorn, and he also completed all the 'Munros' furth of Scotland.

Many club members will remember Ian being at the end of the rope as they conquered the Inaccessible Pinnacle in the Skye Cuillin. Indeed at Ian's funeral several club members introduced themselves to his children, Lesley and Stuart, by saying 'your Dad took me up the Inn Pinn'.

After moving to Drumoak Ian started a walking club called the 'Dee-ciders' whose members enjoyed some quite challenging walks. The club is still flourishing. Ian's interests also included running and he completed several marathons. Along with his wife Norma he returned to (? took up?) golf in later life when going to the hills was unfortunately no longer an option.

Ill health took its toll over the years and Ian survived many operations and procedures. Lesser men would have succumbed to three hip replacements, a heart by-pass and bowel cancer but his strength of character shone through each time. However, it was kidney failure and the need for kidney dialysis which began in 2002 which was the final straw. Ian is survived by Norma, his wife of 53 years, son Stuart, daughter Lesley and their families. Laura, one of Ian's granddaughters was so inspired by her grandpa that she followed in his footsteps and is now a teacher of Physical Education.

Anne Pinches

DOUGLAS WILLIAMSON

Douglas Guthrie Williamson was born in 1937, in Edinburgh, and although his later childhood was spent in Paisley, he regarded himself as an Edinburgh person. He studied Chemistry at Glasgow University, gaining both BSc and PhD degrees, after which a fellowship at Cambridge followed. In 1964 he was appointed lecturer in Chemistry at Aberdeen University and three years later married Alison, in Edinburgh. Throughout his youth he climbed Munros, developed a love of the Scottish landscape and became a passionate rights of way campaigner. On occasions he was confronted by gamekeepers, some carrying broken shot guns with some menace, but he was completely fearless.

The advent of wind turbines at first dismayed him but he came to the view that the generation of renewable electricity was valuable, if done imaginatively. He had a passionate interest in the Railway system and became vice-chairman of the Scottish Rail Passenger Committee. He travelled extensively by rail throughout the UK and continental Europe. He was also vice-chairman of the Scottish Consumer Council, a member of the Scottish Transport Users Committee and a lay member of the Law Society of Scotland Complaints Committee. It was for all this work that he was awarded an MBE in 2000.

Douglas was a marvellous raconteur (see his article in the Club Journal, Vol 21, p108, 2007), and had strong interests in music and literature. His death in 2012 was recorded in the 2013 issue of the Journal but unfortunately an obituary was not included. He is greatly missed.

Les Batt