

IN MEMORIAM

ANNE E. G. CORDINER

Anne was born in 1925 in Glasgow, of northeast stock. Her mother died of cancer before Anne was 4, a condition that proved hereditary, though Anne was 92 before she finally succumbed. Her teenage years were spent in Bristol, but Anne returned to Scotland to train at the Dunfermline College then based in Aberdeen, graduating with a diploma in Physical Education and Swedish Remedial Work in 1946.

Her interest in the hills and her adventurous spirit were first stimulated by her father, but her first post as a teacher of physical education in Skye gave her unparalleled opportunities to develop her mountaineering skills. Subsequent teaching posts took her to Aberdeen, Bristol, and Derby. Her range of outdoor skills (she held an instructor's certificate in swimming, a proficiency certificate from the British Canoe Union for sea kayaking, and the Mountaineering Instructor's Advanced Certificate) and her work at Glenmore Lodge and with the Mountaineering Association resulted in her appointment as the full-time Warden at the Outward Bound School for Girls in Wales (Rhowniar), a position which she held for twelve years. Whilst at Rhowniar, she got three months' leave of absence to take up a Churchill Fellowship to study Leisure and the Natural Surroundings in Poland, Czechoslovakia and India. That fellowship led to lifelong friendships, which in turn resulted in the Cairngorm Club's exchanges with a climbing club in Rzeszow, Poland, in 1989 and 1990.

On returning to Aberdeen in 1978, she joined the Blood Transfusion Service. Her hobbies were mountaineering, general travel, and photography, and her holidays were often spent abroad, climbing or skiing. The friendships made during her time at Rhowniar and Derby opened doors to trips to Switzerland, France and Italy, Spitzbergen, the Himalayas, Uganda (she had a certificate for successfully climbing Kilimanjaro in her 70s), California, Patagonia, Australia and New Zealand. A highlight was an expedition to Greenland in 1970 with

members of the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club, as described in the *Cairngorm Club Journal*, (94, pp. 1-4).

Anne joined the Club in 1949, and her first term on the Committee was in 1957. She served as Vice-President from 1962 to 1965 and again from 1984 to 1985. At the AGM of the Club on 27 November 1985, she was elected President in succession to Mr E. F. Johnston, and so was President in the Club's Centenary Year. Eric recalls Anne as a good all-round mountaineer, with a natural, well-balanced climbing style and a quiet but competent demeanour. Anne was later accorded Honorary Member status.

Anne was a very private person, of strong character, and with definite views. Her skills in the outdoors, and her enthusiasm for the hills were never in question. In her later years, she was burdened with almost complete deafness, which caused many a misunderstanding.

Anne's extensive mountaineering library and photographic collection were left to the Club on her death on 19 October 2017.

JOHN M. C. GIBSON

John Gibson, an orthopaedic surgeon, became a member of the Club in 1983, and was a member of the committee from 1988 to 1991, and Vice-President from 1994 to 1997. He graduated in Medicine from Edinburgh University in 1950, and underwent training in London, Oxford and Edinburgh before being appointed to his consultant post in Aberdeen and Stracathro Hospital. In addition to his outstanding career as an orthopaedic surgeon, he had a major interest in the hills, and took part in many Club activities. He is remembered by James Friend as a "*delightful companion on any walk or weekend event, with a splendidly dry sense of humour. On one walk, as we ascended a Munro in Knoydart, he looked at his watch and commented, 'as my granny used to say, the trouble with porridge is that it leaves you suddenly at 11 a.m.'*"

At one point he and his wife Joyce acted as the back-up team to his son Rory who, with a friend, undertook a massive challenge to climb all the Munros in 50 days covering all the ground in between by

walking or cycling. They narrowly missed achieving this by a day because of appalling weather conditions. In later years John's health rendered him frail, and Joyce and he moved to Edinburgh to be near their family. Many Club members will recall very enjoyable visits to them there. John died on 18 January 2017, and Joyce died in May. They will be sadly missed.

DENIS HARDY

Denis was born in Folkestone in 1931 and spent his boyhood in India where his father was a serving army officer. Much of his early education took place in the hill station of Simla, which may have contributed to his later love of mountain places. He returned to Britain after the war and completed his education at the University of London where he achieved his BSc and PhD in chemistry. During his time as a student he escaped north whenever possible for climbing weekends in Wales and Skye.

After serving his National Service with the Royal Signals in the Libyan Desert, Denis looked for a job in Scotland to be closer to the hills and succeeded in finding employment in Edinburgh as a research chemist. He became a member of the Edinburgh Mountaineering Club, through which he met his future wife Elizabeth. In 1967 they moved to Aberdeen, where Denis took up the post of Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, School of Pharmacy and joined the Cairngorm Club.

Denis and Elizabeth became active participants in all the Club's activities and regularly took new members "under their wing", ensuring that they made the most of the Club, including weekends away before the advent of weekend meets. Denis became involved in the renovation of Muir Cottage, spending many weekends on work parties with his whole family. In 1972 he took over the custodianship of Muir from Peter Howgate (see below) and filled that role for the next eight years. During that time, he helped organise the convivial and well-attended Hogmanay and Burns Night gatherings at Muir, of which

some members still have happy memories. After this he served for three years as Vice-President.

Alongside climbing, Munro-bagging and ski-mountaineering, Denis' interests included photography and alpine gardening. He and Elizabeth spent many walking holidays in the Alps and the Pyrenees, returning with surreptitiously collected seeds and plant specimens. His move away from Aberdeen upon retirement in 1984 took him out of the sphere of the Club's organised activities, although he kept in touch with the many members who had become friends. He continued to travel, becoming particularly fond of the Pacific Northwest of the USA and Canada, and devoted much effort to constructing a beautiful alpine garden out of a few acres of neglected croft land 700 feet above sea level, and overlooking the Beaully Firth. Denis died at home in March 2017 and is survived by Elizabeth and their daughter Alison and son Bruce.

PETER F. HOWGATE

Peter was born in Liverpool in 1929 and was there through the 1939-45 war. From an early age he had a passion for climbing and the natural world, enjoyed through snatched weekends in North Wales and the Lake District. He met his future wife Pam through climbing, and they married in 1951. After graduating in Chemistry at Liverpool University in 1953 Peter worked briefly in the chemical industry in England, but he and Pam then moved to Aberdeen for Peter to join the Torry Research Station in May 1955. He joined the Club the following year.

Within the Club, Peter made his mark immediately, joining the committee in 1957 and becoming Hut's Custodian in 1959. Richard Shirreffs writes "*it is as the Custodian who saw Muir Cottage through its refurbishment in 1971 to 72 that many of us most remember Peter – the skilled do-it-yourselfer who planned and then directed a group of us through such works as constructing the bunks – wooden posts, with tubular metal rails and sailcloth canvases slung taut between them, very comfortable for fully 30 years until the canvases began to sag*". Later in the 1970s, Peter's work took him away to Malaysia for two

years but his return to Aberdeen in 1979 came just at a time when the Club was looking for a new President, and Peter was a unanimous choice. Later he was accorded Honorary Membership. Perhaps less well known to members is the fact that Peter had a part in getting an organised mountain rescue facility off the ground in this area. He was one of a few volunteers from the Club called out on New Year's Day 1959 to help with an extensive search initiated by police in Glen Clova, and after other similar searches hampered by a lack of proper organisation, pressure grew for something more, and the Aberdeen and Braemar Mountain Rescue Teams were formed in 1964 and 1965.

In his professional life, Peter was extremely knowledgeable, well-respected and willing to share his skills with others. He worked at the Torry Research Station for 35 years, specialising in research and development in fish processing and handling, and becoming Head of the Quality Assessment Unit. Whilst working (and even after that in his retirement) he authored or co-authored numerous papers for peer-reviewed scientific journals and contributed chapters to numerous books. He retired at the end of 1989 and received the OBE. His contribution in his professional field is commemorated through the establishment of a Peter Howgate Award, to support young scientists and technologists in the field of fish technology to advance their international experience and develop their career, skills and knowledge.

Peter and Pam moved to West Sussex round about 2000 to be closer to their daughter Jill and her family, but he kept up his interest in the Club to the end. He died on 24 December 2016.

JOAN JOHNSTON NÉE VICKERY

Joan was born in London in 1931 and lived through the Blitz. She won a scholarship to Rosebery Grammar School in Epsom and became an industrial photographer with BP. She started climbing whilst working in Wales, climbing Ben Dearg and Ben Wyvis whilst on holiday in Scotland. She met her future husband Eric in the Alps, or as Eric put it at their Golden Wedding Anniversary, "*they first set bleary eyes on one*

another at 3.00 a.m. in Geneva Airport". Six months later they were married in London and Joan moved to Aberdeen.

At that time, Eric was Meets Secretary of the Club, and Joan's first Club outing was to Ben Lawers, sparking what was to become a lifelong hobby, photographing mountain flowers, - culminating on the Isle of Hoy when she at last spotted the relatively rare *Primula Scotica*.

Joan became the unofficial Club photographer at important Club events such as the reopening of Muir in 1972 after refurbishment, the Centenary celebrations, and the 60th anniversary of the Club indicator on Ben Macdhui. These photographs were all developed at home and are now part of the Club Special Collection at Aberdeen University.

Joan's last Club outing was to Mount Keen in 2000 for the group photograph, replicating that taken in 1890. She died on 30 September 2015 at Maryfield West Home after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

EILEEN M. LEESE NÉE SPENCE

Eileen was born in Aberdeen in 1926. She was a keen sportswoman playing hockey for school, Scottish Universities and once for a Scottish XI. Whilst at Aberdeen University she became interested in hill walking and joined the Club in 1949 as a life member, spending weekends working on Derry Lodge and Muir Cottage. She made lifelong friends and loved Deeside, with especially fond memories of Bob Scott at Luibeg as well as Torridon, but Lochnagar was her favourite. In the early 1950s she moved to London for work but missed the hills and spent all her summer holidays between the North-West Highlands and Deeside, walking whenever the opportunity arose. On return to Aberdeen in 1982 she continued to enjoy the hills.

She was very outgoing and made friends easily, always enjoying the banter of good company. In later life she spent more time gardening and playing golf, but hills were always her first love. She very much appreciated and was flattered by the contact the Club made with her in later years, as its second longest member. During her last year of life, on trips to Inverey and Glen Callater, she would lose herself in warm memories of a golden time of post-war hill walking.

GORDON M. McANDREW

Gordon was born and brought up in Aberdeen, attending Aberdeen Grammar School and then graduating from Aberdeen University with a medical degree. His passion for the hills came from his father and was further developed through the school hill-walking club. In 1949 at the age of 16 and while still at school he joined the Club and was a member until his death on 1 July 2016. While the Club had the use of Derry Lodge he was a member of the working parties which carried out renovations in the 1950s and he was also involved with other members in vital work at Corrour Bothy around the same time.

Gordon served twice on the committee of the Club from 1955 to 1958 and again from 1960 to 1963, the first time as a student.

Gordon “compleated” his Munros in 1986 and gained permission to reproduce Sir Hugh Munro’s coat of arms to design a tie and later a badge for compleaters. It was also Gordon who proposed and subsequently organised the resoundingly successful celebratory dinner in the Roxburghe Hotel in Edinburgh on 23 November 1991 to honour the centenary of Munro’s Tables. It was attended by 223 people from all over the UK and beyond, and by an effigy of Sir Hugh Munro! A letter from Sir Hugh’s nephew was read out at the dinner.

Gordon met his wife Leonora while they were both working at Woodend Hospital in Aberdeen. They left Aberdeen in 1970 for York and moved to Edinburgh two years later where Gordon spent the remainder of his life.

Gordon’s medical career was long and distinguished, including time as a Consultant in Medicine for the Elderly in both York and Edinburgh. He continued to be involved long after his official retirement in a variety of part-time posts. He was also involved in the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh, holding posts of responsibility with that distinguished body. In 2007 he was made a burgess and Free Citizen of the City of Edinburgh.

Away from the hills he had many and varied leisure interests which led him to travel extensively through Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Antarctica.

Gordon is survived by his wife Leonora, also a Club member, his daughter, son and three grandchildren.

KENNETH L. G. MILLS

Ken Mills was a member of the Cairngorm Club from 1995 and was a Committee Member from 2003 to 2005. Born in Birmingham in 1929, his family moved to Glasgow after the Blitz, and after schooling in Glasgow he studied medicine in Cambridge and the Westminster Medical School in London, qualifying in 1954. He was enlisted into the RAF for his National Service in 1956, only to be involved in the Suez crisis, performing emergency surgery on casualties on board HMS *Ocean*, an elderly aircraft carrier, and undertaking many other responsibilities until he was demobilised in 1959. After several training posts, he was appointed as a Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery in Aberdeen, where his skills and personal qualities endeared him to his colleagues and patients - he was ever the true gentleman and had a warmth of character and interest in a wide range of topics. He wrote several articles on varied topics in the *Cairngorm Club Journal*. These included such topics as the hip bones of penguins, one of the few species who spend most of their lives, like human beings, in an erect posture (*Cairngorm Club Journal*, 109, pp. 339-342). Even in his later years, he travelled widely, spending time in the Antarctic (including time as medical officer on a British Antarctic Survey vessel) and visiting Siberia in winter. He was an enthusiastic hill-walker, and a warm and interesting companion on any expedition, and indeed he and John Gibson were not only close colleagues in work but long-standing friends both on the hills and elsewhere. He died on 4th August 2017, at the age of 87, leaving many happy memories with family, friends, and his patients.

NORMAN C. ROBERTSON

Norman was born and brought up in Aberdeen and died in 2017 after a short illness. He had been a member of the Cairngorm Club since 1978 and was made an Honorary Member in 2013 for his long-time role as local contact at Inverey for Muir Cottage. This involved not just supplying a key in an emergency but undertaking urgent repairs.

Norman was one of the founder members of the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team, when his brother-in-law, Bill Marshall, was first forming the team. He maintained an active interest in both the Aberdeen and Braemar teams for many years.

His working life was spent in Aberdeen as an electrician, during which time he and his wife Bett ran their own business. He later became a clerk of works for the City Council. On retirement he and Bett decided to move up to Inverey and became stalwart members of the community there and in Braemar. Norman was heavily involved with the refurbishment of Mar Lodge following the fire in the late 1990s. He helped with the electrical work especially in the billiard's room. As a result, Norman was very frequently called out to help with electrical work at Mar Lodge.

He was also the Look Out Ghillie during the shooting season for Mar Estate, especially up Glen Ey. He retained his love of the hills all his life. Bett and Norman were married for over 65 years and had 4 children, 3 sons and a daughter. Bett survives Norman.

JUDITH E. THROWER

Judith Thrower was born in 1936 and moved to Aberdeen when her husband, Jim, joined the staff of the University of Aberdeen. Judith herself was a geography teacher and took up a post in what was then Aberdeen College. Judith's love of geography meant a very wide interest in "the world" and she was an avid philatelist with a large stamp collection. A stalwart of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, she joined some of their expeditions, giving several Traveller's Talks, furthermore her travels to China and Mongolia

enabled her to make valued contributions to Aberdeen's Chinese Studies Group.

Judith joined the Club in 1990 and made many friends. She loved days in the hills and after retirement was an enthusiastic "Thursday walker". Sadly, with the onset of Parkinson's disease, her activities were limited, and she had to accept the use of a wheel chair. However, Judith continued to "join in" and Thursday walkers remember her hospitality at her lovely home near Brig o'Balgownie after they had explored the area. In the end "Lunch and Daunders" were manageable. She is remembered coming along in her wheelchair and much enjoying a beautiful morning along the Ythan estuary before lunch. Sadly, Judith then had to move into a care home but was always interested in the Club and travels. She died in April 2016, a few weeks short of her 80th birthday. Ruth Payne recalls, *"I had the privilege, whilst in Tibet, of raising, a few weeks after her death and with help from locals, a chorten in Judith's memory – close to the Rongbok monastery, glacier and Mallory memorial – it seemed fitting that such a talented and enthusiastic person should have a spectacular resting place with a splendid view of the North face of Mount Everest."*