

His career in banking led eventually to Eric becoming an area manager with Trustee Savings Bank (Scotland). He did not allow this to detract from his passion for climbing and the hills. In the early 1950s, before he joined the Club, and when there were no organised mountain rescue facilities, he assisted in occasional mountain rescues which happened to be needed where he was climbing. He joined the Club in 1954 and evidently made an immediate mark, as he took on the position of Meets Secretary in 1956, serving in that role for eleven years. During this time, he helped with the establishment of more organised mountain rescue facilities. Later he took on the Club Secretaryship for five years from 1967 to 1972. But his service with the Club was far from over, and after two terms as Vice-President he became President for three years from 1982-1985 and Honorary President from 1994 to 2003; he was also elected an Honorary Member in 1997.

On the hills he did much climbing, including new routes, with other members, but he also enjoyed just walking the hills, both with Club members and with his wife and family. He also enjoyed ski mountaineering, an activity which he kept up even into his 70s.

EDDIE MARTIN

Eddie was born in Middlesbrough on September 11th, 1928, and brought up in York. He was a bright pupil at school, was a Scout, a member of the Clifton Church Choir and a founding member of York Mountaineering Club. Upon leaving school Eddie went straight into National Service after which he passed the Civil Service entrance exam and joined HM Revenue and Customs. Posted to Stornoway in 1949 he met a pharmacist called Irene who lived in the same digs, which they also shared with a young TSB banker called Eric Johnston. After Eddie & Irene married in 1952, the Martins and Johnstons were to become lifelong friends and between them they helped form over 60 years of Club history.

Eddie joined the Club in 1961 serving as Auditor 1967-70, Committee member 1978-80, Hut Custodian 1980-93, Vice President 1985-88 and President 1988-91. During his time as Hut Custodian, he was responsible for many exciting projects at Muir such as new heating, a new water supply and fencing off Pipers Wood. After passing on the baton of Hut

Custodian to Robbie Middleton in 1993 Eddie continued to take a keen interest in developments at Muir and was generous with his support and advice.

Eddie died on January 8th, 2020, leaving many with great memories of a gentle yet strong man, a good climber, a keen Club historian and a great friend and mentor to many.

Eddie and Irene leave daughters Jane and Susan and his son Andy, who is a Club member.

SHEILA MURRAY

Sheila was born in 1920 in Staffordshire where her father was a Vet. He died suddenly at the age of 53, a tragic event which affected the rest of Sheila's life. Following this 11-year-old Sheila, her older brother and her mother moved north to Aberdeen. Both Sheila's parents came from Aberdeenshire so coming north was a bit like coming home for the family, albeit in tragic circumstances. Most of Sheila's childhood holidays were spent in and around her parents' home village of Lumsden.

Sheila's close family consists of two nieces and two nephews and their families. Although they live in England, they were all introduced to the delights of Donside, Deeside and especially Muir Cottage. Their connection with this part of the world continues.

After graduating from Aberdeen University with an MA Sheila completed teacher training and her career as a Primary School teacher concluded with her retirement from Skene Square Primary School in 1978.

Sheila was introduced to the Cairngorm Club by a friend, Ethel Scott and developed close friendships with Anne Cordiner and Jean Arthur among others. Sheila joined in 1953 and was a member until the time of her death in 2020. Sheila was involved in many work parties at Derry Lodge, the Club's base before Muir Cottage. Three years after joining Sheila was elected to the committee. She served three terms on the committee before being elected Vice President and then in 1970 Sheila became President. After 27 male presidents Sheila had the honour of being the first lady President! She made new members feel welcome and while in office always made sure everyone on the bus had someone to walk with. In 1972 she presided over the opening of the reconstructed Muir Cottage.