

IN MEMORIAM

RICK ALLEN

Many worthy obituaries were written following the tragic death of Rick Allen on July 25, 2021, in an avalanche on K2.

Rick joined the Cairngorm Club in 1982. He was also a member of the Scottish Mountaineering Club and belonged to the Cosmic Hill Bashers, an Aberdeen based hill running club.

In her *The Cairngorm Club 1887-1987*, Sheila Murray wrote “*three young members have been preoccupied with serious climbing and more arduous expeditions to the Himalayas*”. The list of 3 included Rick. Sheila noted that all 3 “*will doubtless contribute more to climbing history and the next Club’s history will surely have further achievements of theirs to report*”: in 2012 Rick and Sandy Allan climbed Nanga Parbat via the Mazeno Ridge which earned both a Piolet d’Or, Alpinism’s highest honour.

Anne Cordiner noted him to be “*a quiet young man*” as recorded in Club Proceedings, CCJ 101. This did not stop Rick regularly attending Club Zoom talks and social meets and indeed giving a talk in May 2021 just a few months before his final trip to K2.

Rick died on K2 on a new summit route to raise money for the educational and health needs of refugees fleeing Myanmar via the Partner’s Relief and Development Charity.

He is remembered by those who knew him as an extraordinarily kind and generous man as well as a daring climber.

ELIZABETH HARDY

Elizabeth was born in Hamilton in 1929 and grew up in Falkirk and Edinburgh before training as a teacher at Moray House College of Education. During her student days she youth-hosteled around Scotland by bicycle and spent summers working as an assistant warden at Loch Lochy Youth Hostel in the Great Glen, a defining point in her lifelong love of the Highlands.

After starting work as a teacher, she met her future husband Denis through the Edinburgh Mountaineering Club. A brief sojourn in the East

Riding of Yorkshire followed, but in 1967 they returned north to Aberdeen, where they both joined the Cairngorm Club.

Elizabeth was very involved in all the Club's activities; Ordinary Life Member since 1967 and serving three times on the committee, 1968-1971, 1973-1976 and 1977-1979. Her entire family spent many weekends and working holidays at Muir Cottage during the 1970s when Denis was Hut's Custodian. Bus meets were Elizabeth's great enjoyment, and she continued to join these meets for many years after her move away from Aberdeen to walk the hills in the company of her many friends who were Club members.

Elizabeth and Denis retired in 1984 and moved to an old croft above Beaully where they constructed an alpine garden, planted a lot of trees, and travelled widely in Europe and northwest America. Elizabeth cared selflessly for Denis throughout his long last illness, and she never lost her own youthful spirit, sleeping under canvas in her 89th year and still taking immense pleasure in walking in wild places and ascending modest hills.

Elizabeth died in January 2020 and is survived by her daughter, her son and three grandchildren.

ERIC F. JOHNSTON

With the death of Eric Johnston on 21 January 2020, the Club lost one of its most devoted members. Born and brought up in Aberdeen, he embarked upon a career in banking. This was interrupted by his war service; his spirit of adventure leading him to volunteer for the Royal Armoured Corps and to join the tank crews of the 4/7 Royal Dragoon Guards. His experiences of the D-Day landings were later to be the subject of a book which he wrote and were to earn him the French Légion d'Honneur as well as UK medals. He was amongst those war veterans who had their portrait painted by Catherine Goodman on commission from the Prince of Wales; this now hangs in the Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace.

Resuming his banking career after the war, he took a keen interest in climbing. On a trip to the Alps, he met his wife-to-be, Joan, with whom he had a long and happy marriage and brought up two daughters, Sheila and Helen.