

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.

In 1976 at the AGM Sheila presented to the then outgoing President, Sandy Black, a beautiful Presidential badge of office. The centrepiece of the badge is the club coat of arms with a Cairngorm stone above. Each president since then has been proud and privileged to wear the badge on formal club occasions.

As well as time at Muir with family and friends Sheila spent a lot of her holidays on trips abroad, usually cross-country skiing or walking, including trekking in Nepal. She visited North Africa, Australia, North and South America, the Azores as well as the many of the mountain areas in mainland Europe, including Switzerland, Austria and Italy. These foreign trips started in the 60's when foreign travel was a bit of a novelty. Nearer home Sheila completed her Munros on Ben More in Mull in 1985, being No 449 on the list. When trips to climb the hills were no longer possible Sheila enjoyed time spent close to the hills such as the one described by her good friend Donald Hawksworth in CCJ No 109 entitled "Gourmandising in Skye" where good times and good food was shared with Donald, Leonora and Gordon McAndrew and Alan Bell. In the same issue of the Journal is Sheila's excellent account of her trip to Cortina in the Dolomites at the age of 89 along with a group of Club members. Other interests included attending orchestral concerts in Aberdeen's Music Hall and Sheila was an enthusiastic supporter of the national rugby team.

To mark the centenary of the club Sheila took on the momentous task of writing a wonderful book entitled "The Cairngorm Club 1887 - 1987". This contains a huge amount of information about the Club and its place in the development of so many hill going activities, especially Mountain Rescue. The book is out of print but from time-to-time copies appear for sale on-line and in second-hand book shops.

Sheila often said that joining the Cairngorm Club was the best thing she ever did in her life. Those of us who have benefited from her friendship and appreciate her massive contribution to the Club could only agree.

Sheila died at home in April 2020 within weeks of her 100th birthday, those close to her miss her greatly. A life well lived.

NORMAN SHEPHERD

Norman was born in Aberdeen in October 1947 and died on 8th December 2021.