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DIARY

Date	Venue	Meet Leader
January 15 - 17	Glen Shee	Alisdair Andrews
February 5 - 7	Northern Dinner Meet/AGM- Patterdale	Brooke Midgley
February 26 - 28	Glen Coe	Alisdair Andrews
March 17	London Lecture - Rembrandt Hotel	Peter Ledebor
April 17	Surrey Day Walk	Peter Bull
April 16 - 17	Glenfinnan	Alisdair Andrews
April 16 - 17	Hut Maintenance - Patterdale	Brooke Midgley
May 9	Cotswold Day Walk	Mike Goodyer
May 15 - 16	Peak District Camping Meet	Ed Bramley
May 15 - 16	Laggan Bridge	Alisdair Andrews
May 19	London Lecture - Rembrandt Hotel	Peter Ledebor
June 4 - 6	Snowdonia Meet - Rhyd-Ddu	Mike Goodyer
June 11 - 13	Big Walk - Cairngorms	Alasdair Andrews
June 16	London Lecture - Rembrandt Hotel	Peter Ledebor
July 3- 4	Lake District - George Starkey Hut	Mike Goodyer
July 24	Ecrins Massif - La Berade	Jeff Harris
August 8	Joint ABMSAC/AC/CC Meet	
July 31	ABMSAC 90 Year Anniversary	Brooke Midgley
August 14	Meet - Saas Grund	
August 6 - 22	Family Meet - George Starkey Hut	
October 1 -2	Hut Maintenance - Patterdale	Brooke Midgley
October 16 - 17	Buffet Party - George Starkey Hut	Cathy McManus
October 29	Donegal - S Ireland	Alasdair Andrews
November 1		
November 6 - 7	Alpine Reunion - George Starkey hut	Jeff Harris
November 17	Christmas Party - Rembrandt Hotel	Peter Ledebor
November 19 - 21	Cheviot Hills	Alasdair Andrews
February 5 - 7 2000	Northern Dinner/AGM - Patterdale	Brook Midgley

In addition, the George Starkey Hut is reserved for members and guests on all Bank Holiday weekends and over the Christmas and New Year period.

ST PETER'S CHURCH, ZERMATT

On Wednesday 30th December, while the Christmas decorations still illuminated the ever beautiful winter scene of Zermatt, a service of Thanksgiving & Dedication was held to mark the restoration of the English Church.

Since 1870 St Peter's Church has stood on its site above the Alpine Museum, with a ready welcome for all those who want an English speaking church to attend whilst visiting, or working in, Zermatt. In the heyday of British Alpinism it was regarded as very much the parish church of the British Alpine Club, but now attracts English speaking people from across Europe and further afield. The church is owned by the Intercontinental Church Society (ICS) and staffed by English clergy throughout the winter and summer seasons, who stay in a nearby apartment. This enables St Peter's to be open to visitors daily, and to offer Sunday services, as well as various mid-week events - next time you find yourself in Zermatt it is well worth dropping in.

Over £60,000 has been raised to restore St Peter's to its former dignity, with repairs and redecoration both inside and out. The result is truly splendid, with the evidence of skilled craftsmanship and careful attention to detail which has retained the charm and beauty of the building whilst ensuring its use into the next Millennium. The service of Thanksgiving and Dedication was led by the Chaplain at the time, the Rev Alan Purser, and Mr Tim Royle (a Council Member and Trustee of ICS) preached on the theme of Christ as the Light of the World. This was followed by a reception in the Mont Cervin Hotel.

The next day was New Year's Eve and as the congregation gathered to celebrate Holy Communion at 11.15pm we were conscious of the tremendous history of this building, which was established in the aftermath of the Whymper expedition and which still stands today to point people to the One who made the mountains, the Lord of Heaven and Earth.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all those members who contributed to the appeal - the fund remains open until Easter time and needs another £4000 to meet its target. If you would like to contribute please send your donation to the Intercontinental Church Society, 1 Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park, Warwick, CV34 6NG.

Alan G Purser
See centrefold for photograph

A CLIMBING BICENTENARY

Last May saw the two hundredth anniversary of the first recorded rock climb in Wales (putting to one side the legendary escapade of Owain Glyndwr on Moel Hebog). The climb was made by two Anglican clergymen, the Revd. Peter Williams, Rector of Llanberis, and the Revd. William Bingley, who was visiting Snowdonia. They were botanising and came to the foot of Clogwyn Du'r Arddu. Williams had the idea of trying to ascend the cliff. Bingley graphically told of their adventure.

"When we had ascended somewhat more than half-way, there seemed no chance of our being able to proceed much further, on account of the increasing size of the masses of rock above us. We rested for a moment from our labour to consider what was to be done. The danger of again descending was much too great, for us to think of attempting it, unless we found it absolutely impossible to proceed. On looking down, the precipice, for a least three hundred feet seemed almost perpendicular.

We were eager in our botanical pursuit, and extremely desirous to be at the top, and I believe it was the prospect downwards that determined us to brave every difficulty. It happened fortunately that the steep immediately above us was the only one that presented any material danger. Mr Williams having on a pair of strong shoes with nails in them, which would hold their footing better than mine, requested the first attempt, and after some difficulty he succeeded. We had along with us a small basket to contain our provisions, and hold the roots of such plants as he wishes to transfer to his garden; this he carried behind him by means of a leather belt fastened round his waist. When, therefore, he had fixed himself securely to a part of the rock, he took off his belt, and holding firmly by one end, gave the other to me; I laid hold, and with a little aid from the stones, fairly pulled myself up by it. After this we got on pretty well."

There are two possible routes by which their climb might have been made, now known as the Eastern Terrace and the Western Terrace. The latter seems to fit the description better, as it presents and obvious check well up, a wall with curious scoop handholds, after which the ascent is easy, while the Eastern Terrace has no such check. For all that it is plain that the ascent of the cliff was partly involuntary - they had to go on, they dare not go back - it was a remarkable achievement, for Clogwyn Du'r Arddu must have been extraordinarily intimidating and the climbers did not know whether they would be able to complete the ascent or would be forced perilously to descend again. Even the use of a 'rope', the leather belt, was remarkable.

Recently I and my friend Mike Newman (both of us Anglican clergymen) decided to repeat the ascent; though by today's standards it is not difficult, we could imagine that in 1798 it would be terrifying and have required great determination and not a little courage to complete. The setting is still spectacular.

James Bogle

This article is reproduced by courtesy of Walking Wales, where it first appeared. Walking Wales is a strongly recommended magazine for anyone walking the hills there.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL NORTHERN DINNER MEET 1998

About 30 people were at the Glenridding Hotel for the week end, with some stretching their stay to a week. Saturday's weather was good enough for forays onto the fells. There was a sprinkling of snow accompanied by strong winds. The following peaks were ascended: Blencathra via Sharp Edge, Helvellyn by all possible routes, Fairfield via St Sunday Crag and probably others unreported to either the President or editor. Parties went out and got wet on Sunday but there are no reports of peaks conquered.

The chief guests at the dinner were the AC President Sir Chris Bonnington and Lady Bonnington and friends from the SAC Yolande Coeckelbergs and Walter Gut representing the Geneva Section and SAC Hut Commission.

Nearly 100 attended the dinner. Illness had caused some last minute cancellations. The speeches were well received, Chris touching on some controversial matters such as bolting for abseil anchors and turning adventures into tourism. Yolande gave details of the renovation of the Britannia Hut in which she and Walter had been closely involved. After dinner Yolande gave an illustrated lecture on the project. At this a presentation was made to the Association of Das Grosse Clubhüttenbuch with wonderful photographs of all the SAC Huts. The inscription reads:

"To the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club with thanks for its financial support on the occasion of the renovation of the Britannia Hut".

Commission des Cabanes

Section Genevoise

Glenridding 7 February 1998

Paddy Boulter made an appeal on behalf of the Patterdale Mountain Rescue HQ, and in conjunction with the London meeting £170 was raised.

The President gave some details of the history of the Northern Dinner Meet. This February it was 30 years old. The diary for 1968 lists Walt Unsworth as Meet Leader but the meet was cancelled due to foot and mouth disease. Tony Strawther led the first meet to happen in Edale. This false start could present an opportunity to celebrate 30 years in 1999. The present Meet Leader has organised the meet for 25 years and hotel owners Doreen and John Melling have fed and watered us for 20.

Brooke Midgley

NENTHEAD 27 TO 29 NOVEMBER 1998

Nenthead lying above Alston is a former mining village; saloons and other traditional entertainments long banished. Far around, houses in ruin or obvious disrepair occupy unlikely or isolated locations. On the road from Garrigill a rusting sign extols the attractions of the Miner's Arms which, on arrival, is scarcely visible in the gathering gloom. Entrance is made with difficulty but reveals a cheerful fire and an adequate selection of beers. By supper a good attendance of members was present.

Next morning rain splashes relentlessly in dirty puddles outside. Some flee - led by our President - to culture at the Bowes museum, others choose to visit the tees in flood at High Force and Cauldron Snout or seek the pleasures of Eden. A few venture on the damp bleak peaty moors riddled with mine shafts and shake holes. The weather did improve markedly during the course of the day and all returned dry - fortunate, since there is no drying room in the compact bunkhouse.

Sunday a hardy dozen dress in waterproof overalls, hard hats with lamp and if prudent, wellingtons. A tour of a disused but "safe" lead mine is to be undertaken. At the entrance a notice warns "Danger of Death". A kilometre into the mountain through a maze of often low passages imposes a crouch on the tall which is a cruel and unusual strain on the thighs - perceived more sharply next day - relieved occasionally by a relaxing crawl in the mud in places where the original passage has partially collapsed. Geological influences insinuate ores into faults and thus the party experienced details such as slickensides from the interior 300 feet below the surface - methods of ore extraction were also apparent. After an interesting 3 hours underground it was good to feel the wind, see the blue sky and green grass again though some would have extended their stay through adventitious exploration but for prompt intervention.

Thanks are due to Alf Lock for organising the very entertaining meet in a rather unusual location.

Present: The President Brooke Midgley, Alasdair Andrews, Colin Armstrong, Colin Barnard, Bert Bowes, Graham & Alison Daniels, John Dempster & Dinah Nichols, John & Marj Foster, Peter Goodwin & Myra Watson, Roger James, Alf Lock, Adam Nichols, David Pendlebury, Mike Scarr, Jim & Margaret Strachan, Tony & Suzanne Strawther.

JMS

GLEN SHEE 15 TO 17 JANUARY 1999

A weekend of blue skies, little wind and snow covered peaks preceded our meet, by which time the usual queue of approaching lows had brought at first heavy rains and then snow drifting in the high winds. The Blacklunans bunkhouse, a roomy and comfortable quarters lying on the main route to Spittal of Glenshee, remained easily accessible and more than twenty members were present.

On Saturday the continuous sound of wind and sign of spindrift outside indicated the severity of the tempest. The bold made a very brief visit to a minor summit while the majority were content with short excursions a lower levels. In the depths of the valley the silent snow-hung woods of mature fir and pine delighted the eye and gave a temporary sanctuary from the ever pursuing storm. Sunday's conditions appeared similar and few seemed inclined to further outdoor activity.

The Saturday evening was a very successful event with a splendid and plentiful buffet again organised by Alf Lock preceded by a slide show presented by Ernst Sondheimer of trips through Bhutan and Tibet with particular attention to the many beautiful flowers especially the Orchids and Rhododendrons and showing the occasional risks taken to secure photographs as well as views of scenery and camp life.

Another satisfying and well attended Scottish Meet in spite of the poor weather.

Present: Alasdair Andrews, Colin Armstrong, Bert Bowes, Stephen Bowes, Graham Daniels, John Dempster, Peter Goodwin, Phil Hands, Roger James, Alf Lock, Shirley Mackay, Myles O'Reilly, John Percival, Jamie Russell, Mike Scarr, Ernst Sondheimer, Jim, Margaret & Katherine Strachan, Geoff Urmston. Ian Brebner and Morag MacDonald called in on the Saturday and Marion Faulds visited on the Saturday evening.

JMS

THE OCTOBER BUFFET PARTY AT THE GEORGE STARKEY HUT

There was a near record turnout after a poor two years. It was decided to include a committee meeting during the weekend so that anyone could make his or her complaints known. Our landlords, the Parochial Church Council were invited to the party on Saturday evening. The hut was full and latecomers had to find accommodation elsewhere.

Many folk went out on Saturday in atrocious weather and got very wet. The plan was to use the drying room as a cloakroom for our important guests but it was full, nasty and there were tales of quarks hidden therein and it was not a place fit for a polecat.

Cathy McManus and her assistants spent the day and many previous ones preparing food. The hut was made suitable for guests and decorated with Swiss Canton flags and balloons. It looked wonderful and the roaring fire was welcome, as there was a hard frost.

There was just room for everyone to sit and it was a splendid party with guests and members mingling. The twelve guests were each greeted by the President and then introduced to a member who looked after them and introduced them to other members. The PCC included Bishop Ian and Mrs. Pat Griggs, Mrs. Rosie Lightfoot, who has been our guest at the Northern Dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Tarn. Mrs. Tarn is the school head. Other guests were Mike and Andrew Taylforth our neighbours from Side Farm. The guests were given tours of the hut and an idea of how it operates within the UK hut system.

There was food in abundance, it looked a picture, tasted better and was properly appreciated.

The President made a short speech to greet the guests and thank Cathy and her helpers. Mrs. Rosie Lightfoot added thanks and appreciation from the guests. She is a remarkable lady. She had her twenty first birthday and had been to school in the hut during the 39/45 war. She runs Gilside Farm, campsite, bunkhouse and the milk round! The last guest left about midnight when the party was still going strongly.

Two members missed the party and were very forgiving when tourist groups invaded the dormitories. Julie Boyce was ill all Saturday and Angus Carter had had the misfortune to break an anklebone on Striding Edge. Fortunately Prof. Paddy Boulter was there to minister his needs when he returned from the hills.

Sunday was bright and sunny but the committee members only saw half of it as the meeting took up the morning but they were kind to the President and he got off without a lynching.

There were letters of thanks from several guests before the meet ended.

It was a truly excellent Association get together.

WBM

AUSTRIAN WALK 1998

Few climbers will have heard of the Lasorling Group; except perhaps the English couple whom we met at the Neue Reichenberger Hut, but even they had been living in Munich for the past 14 years. The range lies between the Virgen and Deferegggen valleys and reaches a height of rather more than 3,000 metres. To the North it is sheltered by the heavily glaciated Venediger massif; to the South the Lienzer Dolomites and the Italian frontier; to the West, the old South Tirol coupled uneasily to Italy since the treaty of Versailles. Geography and politics have cut it off from much of the rest of Austria, and this may explain why the Munich couple were the only British people we met in a fortnight.

The ABMSAC Austrian Walking Meet - all four of it - progressed from a first night's stop at Zell am See, via a narrow gauge railway to Mittersill in the Pinzgau, a taxi through the Felbertauern tunnel, and a final bus ride up to St Jakob in Defereggental - a name to conjure with. We had been misinformed about bus timings through the tunnel, and the chap in the Tourist office in Huben was not entirely accurate about the buses up the valley which passed about 30 yards from his office; he did however feel that we should book accommodation at the Reichenberger Hut and kindly and optimistically booked us in. In consequence it was nearly 1.00 before we left the bus and somewhat later before, suitably refreshed we got properly underway. The first 400 metres of ascent went pleasantly enough and saw us to a lower hut and pub. It was less comfortable as we moved on and the mist and rain drove in; packs are always heavier on the first day, and we were a little slow to don anoraks and got both wet and cold. After a further 800 metres, we turned the corner and with some relief saw the friendly outlines of the hut. Supper was already being served and within the hour we were duly installed, warmed, dried and fed.

Beyond a small lake and viewed from the hut stood out a sharp rocky thumb, quite intimidating against the rising sun; we were therefore a little surprised to be on the pass in 35 minutes, and up round the back of the Gosleswand (2,912m) in the hour without taking our hands out of our pockets. Beyond with this success we followed it with the Finsterkar Spitze (3,012m) at the second attempt, this peak producing a "kick in the tail".

A short walk up a local hill in very balmy weather closed off a pleasant day; only a few hours later, tucked up in our bunks, storm and torrential rain roared outside and threatened to tear the hut from the mountain.

Off by 9.00, with the calm restored, we traversed two passes before descending 1,400m to Pragrat in the Virgental; here just before 4.00, the ladies gallantly went off to find a suitable pension whilst the supposedly stronger sex remained comatose after their refreshments in the first pub that hove into sight.

Following a day's pause to recharge batteries, we now followed the Venediger Hohenweg, first to the Essener and Rostocker "Double Hut" where two nights were spent; on the first of these we had the company of much of the Austrian army, looking most impressive clad in ropes, crampons, crabs, pitons and associated ironmongery; they devoted most of the day to putting on this magnificent display and taking it off again. Another small peak in the bag, we crossed the Turmljoch to the Johannes Hut, one of the oldest and smallest in the Eastern Alps. We were allotted a room for eight - roughly dog-kennel size - and were most relieved when no one came to share it with us.

Descent to Hinterbichel and a short walk brought us once more the Pragrat pension, and another rest day.

This enabled us to bypass the Eisse Hut and go straight up from Pragrat, (1,300m) to the Bonn Matreirhütte at 2,720m; some soup and a resurgence of energy took one member of the party up to Saalkopf (3,209m), a steepish zigzag up the scree and an assortment of loose rock and fixed ropes. He returned to find the rest of the party half way through its supper.

Next morning we were off before 8.00, and over two passes in rapid time; the guide book had warned about the descent from the second of these the Galtenscharte (2,882m); this proved unrelentingly steep, and the route intricate, but the usual red marks helped enormously. The face is big, 2,000 feet high, and North facing, and could prove very awkward under snow of in bad weather. A lengthy traverse and final ascent lodged us in the Badener Hut (2,608m).

Another hut day brought a mini-expedition to the Kristallwand (3,329m), with an ascent, winging its way up to no man's land of loose boulders and scree perched on ice, which now seems to lie on the margins of every glacier in the Alps.

At about this point, the roped was donned for the first time, and crampons were worn. We edged along the bergschrund and over a snow boulder, until someone spotted a mark leading up to a fixed rope by means of which we were able to reach the main ridge. An interesting scramble brought us to a restplace, where ¾ of the party demanded lunch and the remainder followed the ridge to the summit and views of the Venediger, climbed 45 years earlier. On the descent, the rocks and earth beside the bergschrund, had become detached from the underlying ice, and some spectacular slides were seen before crampons were put on again and order restored.

For the final day's walk to Matreier Tauernhaus we elected to desert the Hohenweg and follow the Wildenkogelweg. Straightforward for the first couple of hours, the route then entered a large boulderfield - a hard balancing act, and then careered upwards towards no visible pass. The next bit of excitement was made up of nearly 40 feet of wire hawser going up into the sky. Conquered by strength and ignorance by the male element and by Antonia with some grace, Belinda, much the lightest, met with a small problem, and at one stage the Hon Editor was to be seen with one hand on the hawser and the other round the sharp bit of your contributor's ice axe, and being commanded to stand up. It is seldom that a mere author has his editor at such a disadvantage. After a short traverse we reached the scharte and started down yet another boulderfield past two beautiful lakes to the main valley. The path was awkward and slippery and your contributor suffered so greatly in the knees that he was seen subsequently

to buy two collapsible sticks. We staggered into the hotel at about 5.00. Although the beds were good and comfortable, meals were tormented by flies - the worst I have experienced since Mahommed's Cous Cous in the Kasbah - but that's another story.

Following a short walk up the valley, we succeeded in getting a bus through the tunnel and caught the narrow gauge train to Zell am See, a bucketing thunderstorm and the end of our 1998 voyage through the mountains. As in 1997 we had spent 8 nights in huts and 7 in hotels/pensions. Hut to hut distances were not great and were usually accomplished in about 4 hours of "going time", although to two pass-crossing descents seemed longer and some suffered in the knees.

Not usually loads were a topic of conversation, opinions varied between those who felt that less climbing could dispense with ropes and crampons, and other who felt in favour of hut-based days where day sacks could carry all impedimenta for pottering up peaks. The walking team (ladies) performed prodigies of exertion on the valley rest days, whilst the mountaineering wing sought solace in the first pub they could find; higher up, and beyond civilisation and pubs, the roles were reversed.

My thanks go to all involved, Bill Peebles, Antonia Barlen and Belinda Baldwin, all of whom have put up with the leader's opinions and eccentricities on at least three of these ventures.

Wendell Jones

Photograph page 26.

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

BUMPS IN ECUADOR

Quito and a bumpy landing to enthusiastic applause. Quito - our base for rest periods - Old and New, is a lively city. Memories of bustling street markets, street sellers hawking anything from chewing gum, office furniture, to Indian art work and radio aerials. Heavily armed guards at all banks and outside King Chicken! On street catering looks a sure bet for a bumpy stomach. Ladies of the night have a particularly direct approach! A thriving bus culture; fast and cheap, but have been known to go off the odd cliff.

Negotiated transport - 4WD essential - up rough hill tracks involves bumps galore, often defying gravity at precarious angles. Several Americans we met were taken for a ride in more senses than one, being dropped off up to 12kms from refugios "just round the corner". Huts are v. basic but the opportunity to carry some wine rather than a tent is definitely preferable. Alpine starts I find uncivilised, but here mid-night starts are advisable to tray and beat early morning mists.

On our first encounter, Chimborazo, we found the direct Whymper route, denoted; more difficult than dangerous', easier than the normal route. Despite previous acclimatisation - (Argentina) - the spin drifted 1km trudge from Veintemille summit to the main summit, 6,310m, was most debilitating, akin to staggering along in drunken mode. On the earth's equatorial bulge, this is the furthest point from the centre of the earth - but no view, just icy mist.

Cotopaxi, and Dominic is doubled up in pain. My cooking never was very good, but I'm blaming the water; not boiled long enough? Pleasant scrambling on Ilinize Norte, with considerable exposure to the subsidiary top. Ilinize Sur, the most challenging yet, with Dom's battery expiring on the crux of any icy rock pitch. On to a short ice pitch out the bergschrund, t to the delicately formed summit block and magnificent views to Cotopaxi.

Our final attempt on Cayembe; a complex multi-crevasse system, thickening mist and not visible way across the bergschrund. Our consolation, the memory of 2 huge condors circling above us the previous evening. Flight home was not to be recommended; another bumpy landing at Sante Domingo to a subsequent bomb scare and chaotic search to retrieve luggage strewn across the tarmac. Head torch is in its element!

Peter Goodwin

Photograph Cotopaxi page 27.

W Brooke Midgley

It is some years since I wrote for this section of the Journal. I seem to remember writing that we were in a rut whilst enjoying what we were doing it held little interest for others. So the only things that have changed are a) my exhorting others to write articles for the Journal (one must practise what one preaches) b) a possible shortage of copy c) a deeper rut! So the report is relevant to the last 10 years.

Our activity year starts with a week in January, usually in Braithwaite (Keswick) with a group of increasingly old climbing friends (some ABM SAC) where we amble around the Lakeland hills and valleys. There was no snow in 1998 so I didn't get to climb.

February is Northern Dinner month and our stay in the Glenridding lasted over a week to take in the TCC Dinner. This year I was playing in the swimming pool so days in the hills were limited. One reasonable stroll with Arline to Lanty Tarn, Greenside Mine, Stick's Pass, Miner's Track around Glencoyne Head, Aira Gorce and back to Glenridding via a high path and lakeside via Glencoyne Farm. There was no snow so no climbing.

We missed our month's skiing in Val d'Aosta whilst I played at swimming pool engineer at Glenridding. This lasted over April. Arline was out every day in the hills making her fitter than me when we went to the Alps in June.

We attended the wet Welsh Scrambles meet in early June and after left for Val d'Aosta for four weeks. Our younger daughter Gilly and her fiancé Andy joined us for the first week and old climbing friends for the following two. The weather was wonderful by no climbing was possible because of deep snow. We visited various huts - Benevelo, Bezzi, Defreys etc., but streams were too full to cross. The flowers were especially lovely and in great profusion.

We managed a few days walking in the North Yorkshire Moors in July, August and September as well as at odd times in the year.

October was full with Maintenance Meet and Buffet Party at the George Starkey Hut and then four weeks in the Alps to mid November. We visited Saas Srund to view chalets and hotels for the next Alpine Meet on our way to Val d'Aosta. The weather was kind with the trees in brilliant colour. Flowers were still plentiful in the lower meadows. The snowline was low at 1800m, but at that altitude and lower it was freezing with snow good to walk to huts and the odd minor pass. On our return we stayed with our 1998 dinner guests Yolande and Walter near Geneva.

I managed to fit the Kenthead meet into November prior to another week in Glenridding. The weather was poor so little walking but plenty of swimming pool.

Throughout the year I have managed to attend the London lectures. They are splendid evenings and well worth the effort. This paragraph is not for the converted!

It is a wonderful rut. I have climbed nothing of significance but enjoyed the year immensely apart from a bit of horrid excitement in April, which is another story. It may be a long report but it may have to cover the next ten years.

Belinda Baldwin

Fairfield via St Sunday Crag was the first peak of the year on the day of the Northern Dinner. Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llwyn were achieved in June with Antonia Barlen prior to the Welsh Meet in June. They are the sum total of British peaks achieved this year as at other times I have set out and been thwarted with foul conditions. There has been much time spent on my feet in hilly country but without peak bagging.

Near home in South West Coast Path, Blackdown Hills with the odd forays to Dartmoor and Exmoor keep me fit. In April with ABMSAC members Bill Peebles and Antonia Barlen plus Bill's wife Jeanette and two other friends a week was spent walking part of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path.

James and I spent two weeks in July in the Picos de Europa. In August I joined Wendell Jones, Bill Peebles and Antonia Barlen in Austria, which is reported elsewhere in this journal and whilst in Victoria, Australia I had a quick trip through the Grampians.

Ken Baldry

A week of bright sunshine at the end of January is not always a good thing at a ski resort. Although we have seen really good snow in Kitzbuhel, it was better than for the last few years. At the top, it was almost excellent at first, although it became a bit scraped in places by the end. The significant event of this trip was Avis doing everything right and getting down the hardest slope here, after a fashion. Since I fell, through watching Avis rather than myself and destroyed my ski trousers (in the coldest winter here since the Ice Age); it was me who provided the entertainment. Although nothing serious was frozen in the process, it was a long way back to a clothes shop. The old Hahnenkamm cable car has been replaced by efficient six person gondolas, so the dreaded queues of the past have been abolished and four new chairlifts have appeared, two opening up a whole new area to the South of Pöngelstein and two replacing the hated but unavoidable Silberstube draglift.

Avis has never been convinced why I disappear a week every Summer with a huge rucksack and come back with feet in ribbons, so in September, I invited her along for a mild version, buying an even bigger rucksack so that I could do all the carrying. We flew to Geneva and got the train and bus to Leukerbad, staying two nights in the Hotel Derby, as I usually do. The weather was iffy the first day and we went for a walk round the head of the Dala Valley to Clabindualp, indulging in thermal baths afterwards. These have been rebuilt and offer a wide variety of what one suspects are ineffective cures. The next day, we took the cable car to the Gemmi Pass and walked over to Kandersteg, meeting Professor Ursula Gunther, a garrulous but entertaining musicologist at the Schwarenbach. A shock: the Altels has lost most of its ice-field, a dramatic warning about Global Warming. On the steep walk down, Avis decided that she was not into back-packing but had been impressed by the beauty of the scenery. We thumbed a lift into Kandersteg from the bottom and stayed at the Spycher, not quite the barn the name suggests. A dullish day up to the Oeschinenensee was followed by a splendid one into the Gasterntal. That beautiful hidden valley entranced Avis. Then, the train to Betten and cable car to Betmeralp, high above the Rhone Valley for two more nights in the Hotel Aletsch. We went up the gondola to the view of the glacier, the biggest in Europe. Ken went on up the Betterhorn on the grounds that he has not been to the top of anything for a while.

Avis ended up convinced by the ambience but not by the effort. I have put up four Alpine tours in www.art-science.com/Ken/Alpine, so other people can do them.

Photograph page 27.

Peter Farrington

Some winter Munros on Lagganside preceded an April visit to the Sierra De Gredos with the wife. Pleasant walks above the Jerte Valley and a failed attempt on Covacha, 2,399m in foul weather, retreated from around 2,250 metres being unequipped to deal with falling snow on underlying icy and nevé.

Returned to Spain in better weather in July to walk in the Sierra Nevada from a base in Orgiva. A wide variety of terrain enhanced by a fine display of flora provided several excursions including ascents of Mulhacen, 3,479m and Cabello 3,011m.

In September I had a splendid introduction to the High Atlas following well worn, but no less enjoyable trails over a few peaks and passes. Ascended Oukaimeden 3,273m, Assaoun n' Tanamrout c. 2,600m and finally Mt Toubkel 4,167m from a very busy Neltner Refuge. Enough to encourage a return visit and look further afield. Intermittent fell-running throughout the year but only completed in the Bens of Jura Race and the Lowe Alpine MM in Ardour.

Barrie Pennett

The past year has been quite eventful with many hours of walking in the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales, Shropshire Hills and Derbyshire Peak District. New Year's Day was spent walking in the Spofforth area of Nidderdale. It was a cold day with clear skies but shortly before we completed the walk it rained heavily. Because of other commitments that was the only walk we did in January.

In February we visited the Yorkshire Moors and did a short walk on Goathland, the village used for the filming of the television programme Heartbeat. It is a lovely area and best visited in winter when it is quiet. Later in the day we visited Whitby and did a heritage walk which proved to be interesting and ended with a purchase of some smoked kippers fresh from the smokehouse.

Later in the month we did a delightful walk in and around Fountains Abbey in Nidderdale.

A circular walk to Burnt Yates past the ruins of Clint Hall was undertaken on March 15 and then on March 19 we again visited North Yorkshire for a walk from Rievaulx Abbey. This is a lovely area of Yorkshire and well worth a visit.

Good Friday, April 10, was just one of those days weather wise. We planned a walk on the North Yorkshire Moors but after hearing the weather forecast, we decided to do a walk nearer home - in Wharfedale in fact. It was sunny at first, then windy, followed by showers, heavy rain and snow. So the walk from Askwith in Wharfedale was far from pleasant. In fact we would have been better at home in front of the fire. Two days later it was fine and sunny when we walked another section of the Airedale Way.

April 18 saw us in Bridlington for a conference but we still managed to get in a lengthy walk.

Another section of the Airedale Way was completed on May 4 and May 10 we did yet another walk in the Fountains Abbey area.

A visit to Wensleydale on May 15 saw us walking from Ribbleshead on the flanks of Whernside. The next day we walked from Deepdale Foot to the head of Deepdale between the slopes of Whernside and Great Coum.

Later in May my wife, Valerie and I and a group of friends spent a week walking in the Shropshire Hills. We stayed at a cottage at Lower Dinchope near Craven Arms and walked every day, on Wenlock Edge, on the Long Mynd, from Clun and to the Stiperstones. We also did an enjoyable walk from Bishop's Castle.

A highlight of the holiday was a walk from Church Stretton to Caer Caradoc where the views from the summit were superb. We returned by the Three Fingers Rock. Shropshire is a delightful area for walking.

In June we visited the Lake District and stayed at Lowick Green but unfortunately the weather was poor. Nevertheless we climbed Gummer's How (1,045ft) but the view was spoiled by mist. On returning to the car we decided to walk to Cartmel Fell (500ft).

June 20 saw us in Appleby-in-Westmoreland where we visited Dufton and completed a superb walk round the slopes of Dufton Pike. The day was spoiled once again by heavy rain but drinks at the Stag Inn at Dufton were most welcome.

During August my wife and friends completed the Herriot Way long distance walk in Wensleydale and Swalesdale. On August 11 we did a short walk from Kirkby Lonsdale and later another walk from Silverdale.

We were in Buxton, Derbyshire on August 15, 16, 17, 18 for International Music Festival and took time off to do some walking on Sunday August 16. We drove to Castleton via Winnats Pass to Hope where we parked near to the church and walked to Win Hill Pike (1,518ft) via Twitchell Farm. From the summit there are good views down to Ladybower Reservoir. On August 17 I did a walk on the moors above Buxton and then on August 18 we visited Earl Sterndale where we completed a circular walk taking in Chrome Hill (1,411ft) by the Dragon's Back. We later had drinks at the Quiet Woman Inn (if there is such a thing as a quiet woman) at Earl Sterndale.

On August 30 we walked with friends and climbed Great Shunner Fell (2,340ft) from Thwaite and walked over the summit to Hawes.

We used four cars for this walk, left two at Thwaite and the other two cars in Hawes.

In October we spent a week at Near Sawrey and despite the wet weather we managed a walk most days from Hawkshead over Claife heights on one occasion and to Blelham Tarn on another. On Thursday October 22 we started a walk from Rusland but were halted by floodwater so we drove to Tarn Hows and walked from there. Surprise, surprise, Friday October 23 was fine, sunny and there was a clear blue sky. So we made good use of the conditions and climbed Wansfell (1,579ft) from Ambleside by Stock Ghyll. From the summit we walked down to Troutbeck for drinks at the Mortal Man Inn. We then continued by Jenkyn's Crag to Ambleside. On a superb day - blue skies and sun - in between days of rain, we did a short but delightful walk from Addingham along the River Wharfe and Hag Head. During the walk there were glorious views of Beamsley Beacon and Bolton Priory. Later we did another walk in the Bolton Abbey area.

On December 6 we completed the Airedale Way, a delightful 50 mile walk from Leeds to Malham Tarn. The final section, only about 6 miles from Airedale to the tarn, was completed in frosty conditions which afforded good views over the Craven Dales.

A first visit to the Ortler - Mike Pinney

Many will be familiar with Goedeke's Guide to the Alpine 4 thousand metre peaks. In the same series is a guide to Elbrus and a guide by Dieter Seibert to the Eastern Alps. I was familiar with the Bernina/Bregaglia but not the area to its east, apart from the occasional ski trip. I was looking for a one week trip, hut to hut and hopefully taking in mountains en route. The Ortler seemed to offer this, with the Konigspitze at 3,851 and the Ortler at 3,905 having a selection of routes.

It is possible to approach from both Munich and Milan. Due to flight availability we opted for a Friday evening flight to Munich, the Metro to Munich East followed by waiting until 4.00 hours on the deserted platform for the through train to Bolzano. Not having bought tickets in advance, we had to buy 3 separate tickets reflecting the change of country. Roll on the EURO. Bolzano station has a useful information office and we picked up the bus timetable for the region which we were able to study on the local train to Merano. There seemed to be 2 easy options, either go to Sulden or go up the Val Martello to its road head. The latter would get us walking earlier and the Cima Venezia looked a reasonable prospect for the following day. Early afternoon saw us donning boots for the 1½ hour walk to the Marteller hut at 2,610 metres. The hut is well appointed and provides good meals by hut standards. Is there a market for an Egon Ronay guide to huts? It also had hot showers. A study of the hut literature showed that it catered for week long ski mountaineering courses which perhaps explained its luxury.

The following morning was clear and we headed to the right hand of the 3 summits of Cima Venezia traversing the other 2 which involved some easy scrambling. We then descended the Schran glacier before joining a good traverse path which took us back to the hut and a welcome lunch.

The Cevedale provided us with 2 options. Going up the glacier and joining the west flank path to the summit or the more interesting line along the east ridge to the Zufullspitze and a rock step to the main summit. Having come by a longer route, which we had to ourselves, the last parties who had come up the shortest flank route were leaving as we arrived and we had the summit to ourselves. From the summit one could carry southwards to Monte Vioz and either the Rif. Branca or the Mantova hut. Alternatively, and with the prospect of the Konigspitze the following day, we descended the snow slope to the somewhat bleak Casati Hut and joined the path which zig-zags to the lower Pizzini Refugio.

The following morning it was snowing and after some debate we returned to our bunks for a few hours. Hopeful that the following day would be better, we set off mid morning to fully investigate the path which leads up to the left of a detached butte and the clear ice of the Grand Zebra glacier. Subsequently I explored the ridge above the hut and the path which leads to the Bartarelli hut.

The following morning was overcast and did not look promising for the Konigspitze. We thus decided to continue to our next hut, the Hintergrat. We returned to the Casati hut crossing the col and descending the glacier to join a path which wound its way round to the hut. The hut and its adjoining lake was popular with day trippers and the hut was doing a good trade in meals and drinks. The location provides good views of the Konigspitze climbed the following day by a pair of local climbers.

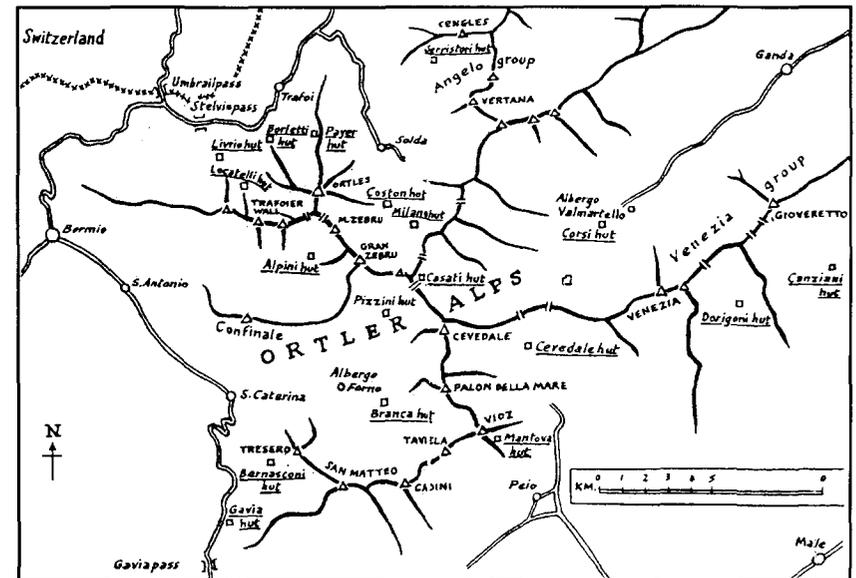
The Ortler, by the Hintergrat or Coston di Dentro involves following a cairned path leading to a snow filled couloir and in the afternoon I carried out a recce as far as the snowline. Several parties were descending and it was established that they had turned back because of snow on the ridges higher up

the route. An early start the following morning saw us following the previously reced path and steps up the snow filled couloir to join the ridge above points 3466. The fine ridge is generally followed to the summit apart from one gendarme which is turned on the left. There is a fixed wire in place to aid the traverse.

From the summit we had fine views across to the Bernina and after photographs and refreshments we headed down the NNW ridge towards the payer hut. One quickly loses height down the snow slope to join the ridge which is followed for a short distance before going back on to the snow on its left crossing the Barenloch basin. The ridge is then rejoined and followed taking care with the rotten rock to reach the hut. A good path is then followed to the Baren Pass and hence down to the pass and down to the private Tabaretta hut and lunch. From there a path traverses past the cable car station back to the Hintergrat (Coston) hut. Having collected spare clothing we descended to Sulden.

The option for the following day would have been to go to the other side of the valley to the Dusseldorf hut. From the cable car station that would have taken an hour and a half, although traversing Vertainspitze and either down to Sulden or back to our starting points in Val Martello the following day would have been somewhat longer. Since neither of us wanted such a short day we took the opportunity to return to Bolzano and then spent a couple of days exploring the Dolomites. In all a recommended tour, and I still have the Konigspitze to climb and must therefore make a second visit.

Ortler Alps - See centrefold for photograph



OBITUARIES

Mrs Mary Starkey

Mrs Mary Starkey, who died in September 1998, at the age of 94, perhaps will have been known to only a minority of older members.

She was not only the widow of George, after whom our Hut is named, but came of a climbing family and was a considerable mountaineer in her own right.

Born in 1904 in village near Bolton, Mary was the eldest of the three children of Joseph and Bertha Files. Educated locally, she went on to Manchester University where she graduated in chemistry. Coming South, she married George in 1934. For the next 40 years they formed a team, and in climbing terms a "rope". From 1933 to 1939 they climbed together with or without a guide in France (Chamonix and Dauphine), Switzerland (Valais) and Austria; if the party was large enough to warrant a second rope, George invariably led it with Mary his equally indomitable second. Mary's application to the Ladies Alpine Club includes both the Mer de Glace Face of the Grepon, and the Dibona-Mayer route on the Requin (5th Ascent?) plus the traverse of the Drus. They both returned to Alpine climbing in 1947 and continued until the early sixties; meanwhile George, ably supported by Mary, was heavily involved in putting the Association back on its feet and leading its Meets.

I first met them both in 1961 at Kandersteg; George was not wholly tolerant of presumptuous young men and I was suitably put in my place. I remember Mary, ever the loyal wife, smiling sweetly, as if to say "Don't mind it too much, he's a nice old bear really!"

Mary joined the Ladies Alpine Club in 1939, and it was not long before she was elected to the Committee. Here her gift for administration came to the fore, and she became Secretary in 1945, remaining in the post for some 15 years, becoming President in 1967.

George's death whilst walking on the Fells near Patterdale in October 1974 - perhaps a good way to go for any mountaineer - must have been a great shock to her. However, she rallied, came occasionally to Association meetings, remaining at Chorleywood where she was an active member of both her local church and WI. She remained active and in her eighties visited and viewed the mountains of USA, Iceland and Norway. At home she was the old lady who walked everywhere.

George became President of the Association, Mary of the Ladies Alpine Club, and her younger brother Bobby Files was both pillar and President of the Fell and Rock . . . A unique family treble?

R.W. Jouis

A Tribute to Dr Albert Eggler by Lord Hunt

When a highly talented group of Swiss alpinists, including several professional guides ("les Genevois") returned in December 1952 from a second, gallant attempt to make the first ascent of Everest, it was understandable that some of them should entertain doubts about the competence of British "amateurs", albeit with good alpine credentials, to succeed where they had failed. The Swiss guide Raymond Lambert and the Nepali sirdar Tenzing Norgay had turned back within about 800 feet of the summit in May of that year; a second expedition was forced to retreat in the face of fierce gales in December.

In truth, these two heroic efforts lacked logistical support as well as the backing of supporting parties. Above all, the two expeditions lacked firm leadership, planning and organisational skills which were necessary for them to operate in unison under extreme conditions of altitude, wind and weather.

This was apparent to the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research (Schweizerische Stiftung für Alpine Forscher) which had financed and launched these attempts on the mountain. The foundation decided to make a radical change in the composition and leadership of a third Swiss effort, to be launched in 1956. Albert Eggler, an advocate from Bern and a professional soldier in the Swiss Army, possessed the experience and skills, the decisiveness and authority which commanded respect among his friends and team members, chosen from German-speaking mountaineers from the Oberland and the valleys of the upper Rhône. But he was also greatly loved by the team. A quiet and modest man, of few words and no pretensions, his leadership was by example.

I met members of all three Swiss expeditions at a gathering in Rosenlauri, convened by the Swiss Foundation to celebrate their success; it was a nice gesture that they chose 1963, the tenth anniversary of our own first ascent of Everest. It was a very happy meeting which brought together, for the first time, the climbers from Geneva and the German-speaking alpinists who had climbed the mountain (as well as neighbouring Lhotse). We British were represented by the veteran from the 1924 Expedition, Neol Edeli, and myself. And of course, Tenzing Norgay was there.

We climbed on the limestone pinnacle of the Englehörner and some enduring friendships were made. Among them was that between Eggler and myself. In the following years we would meet to climb or ski together with other members of Eggler's team, at some climbing venue or other. Good memories abound from those years.

At a centenary meet of our Alpine Club at Zermatt, various Swiss and British climbers traversed the Lyskamm and followed that delightful climb with a much harder route on the Briethorn (the Klein-Triftje or "Young" Ridge). Another year, with Ernst Reiss (who had climbed Lhotse), we made the fifth ascent of a notably hard rock climb which had been pioneered by Reiss; the south-west face of the Wellhorn.

One winter, while skiing at Champéry, Eggler and I, with his daughter Beatrice, made the first recorded mid-winter ascent of the Haute Cime of the Dents du Midi and back to the village, in the course of a short January day. While taking part in the celebrations at Zermatt to mark the centenary of the Swiss Alpine Club, two Swiss "Everesters", Eggler and Luchsinger, with my wife and myself, decided to pay a token tribute to Edward Whymper and his companions who, in 1865, had first climbed the Matterhorn. The weather was atrocious and the mountain heavily covered by fresh snow, yet we ventured for several hours up the Swiss (or Hörnli) Ridge, following the footsteps of the pioneers, until we felt satisfied that honour had been done to those heroes.

We were thwarted by bad weather on another occasion, when we planned to climb the Eiger by its north east buttress (the "Lauber" route). We had to settle for humbler fare; the attractive granite ridges above Meiringen (Gletchhorn, Bergseeschijen, Schijenstock and Tellisstock). Hard little climbs but the good company was what mattered.

My final and abiding memory was skiing with Eggler at Mürren. He was accompanied by two adored Tibetan ("Apso") terriers which, after struggling up the "Pistes", were provided with a free ride downhill, their heads visible at the back of their master's rucksack.

John Hunt

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See centrefold for photograph

**Baron Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine KG CBE DSO
1910 - 1998**

With the death of Lord Hunt on 8 November 1998 the ABMSAC lost its most distinguished member and the world of mountaineering lost a towering figure. His death, coming shortly after the death of his long-time Swiss friend Albert Eggler, perhaps marks the end of an era in the history of mountaineering, an era in techniques, equipment and objectives were markedly different from those applied by young climbers of today.

John Hunt was born in India in 1910, the son of Capt. C E Hunt of the Indian Army. His father was killed in France in December 1914 where he was commanding a unit of Sikh Pioneers. There is a strange story about his death. He was posted missing believed wounded during the battle of Gievechy in 1914 and no further details emerged throughout the war. After the armistice John's mother hoped against hope that he would reappear as the prisoners of war were released, but this was not to be and she was left to bring up her young family alone. In March 1919 Capt. Hunt was posted missing believed killed. There the matter rested until 1921 when a British couple walking in northern France were called over by a farmer who showed them some remains which he had just discovered. The uniform badges and the ID disk showed that it was John's missing father, and he was subsequently buried in the British Commonwealth war cemetery at La Gorgue. In the light of John Hunt's subsequent adventures in the Himalaya it is of interest to recall that his father participated in the Tibet campaign of 1904 under Gen. Francis Younghusband which led to the capture of Lhasa, and later it was Younghusband, as President of the Royal Geographical Society, who was one of the main driving forces behind the first expedition to Everest in 1921.

School at Marlborough was followed by Sandhurst, in turn to be followed by commissioning into the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Throughout his life John Hunt was achiever, as is exemplified by the fact that at Sandhurst he won both the King's Gold Medal and the Anson Memorial Sword. His interest in mountains and affection for Switzerland in particular was kindled by regular family holidays spent in Switzerland as a boy each summer, when he would go off for long walks and scrambles with his younger brother Hugh and sometimes with his mother. This early introduction to the Alps kindled a deep affection for them that he never lost, despite his many later adventures in the world's greatest ranges. Being posted to India with his regiment in 1931, and then a period of secondment to the Indian police, gave him the opportunity to experience exploration and climbing in Himalaya and the Karakoram which was to serve him in good stead later when called on to lead the great Everest adventure.

Recalled to the UK in 1940 he was appointed to the newly formed school of Commando Mountain and Snow Warfare where he got to know F S Smythe closely. At one stage during these years in the UK his regiment was sent to the Welsh border country near Knighton. His wife Joy joined him for a time staying at a farm nearby, and towards the end of the war she brought their children to the farm to be away from the flying bombs then bombarding London. These associations led to an affection for the region that remained throughout the rest of John's life eventually leading to the purchase of a cottage in the hamlet of Llanfair Waterdine near Knighton, where many happy days were spent. The end of the war in Europe saw John in Greece where he commanded the British forces which defeated the communist insurrection and then gave him the opportunity to explore the remoter mountains of that beautiful and not widely known area.

In 1952 the Mount Everest committee, a joint committee of the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club, were facing up to the choice of a leader for the proposed 1953 Everest Expedition. Eric Shipton had led the 1951 reconnaissance which had proved that it was possible to get into the Western

cwn via the now famous ice fall and which was the key to the ascent of the mountain from Nepal, and he had also led the Cho Oyu expedition in the following year when valuable work was done by Griffith Pugh on high altitude medicine which contributed much to the success of the 1953 assault. Although many people assumed that Shipton would be the automatic choice for 1953, after much heart searching the committee decided otherwise and invited John Hunt to accept the role. This was both bold and controversial because whereas Shipton was very well known Hunt's name was less familiar at that time partly because so much of his mountaineering had been away from Europe. One of the reasons that Hunt's name came into the discussion is to be found in the ascent of the Weissshorn the previous year. John and Joy were at the Weissshorn hut with Basil Goodfellow, then Secretary of the Mount Everest Committee, waiting for bad weather to pass. The intention had been to climb the usual route on the Weissshorn but as a result of conversation during their enforced idleness Goodfellow and Hunt decided to traverse the mountain when the weather improved, descending by the long north ridge. As they insufficient food for the unexpectedly extended stay Joy, who did not wish to do the traverse, volunteered to descend to the valley and return with fresh supplies, leaving the climbers to conserve their strength at the hut. The route was successfully accomplished but it was a difficult descent involving a bivouac en route and this forcefully reminded Goodfellow some of the qualities of the relatively little known Hunt and was perhaps the event that changed Hunt's life forever. The events of the following twelve months demonstrated the personal qualities and range of skills that can be seen in every stage of Hunt's career. To weld together a group of young men, several of whom initially resented the choice of leader, into a cohesive and happy team was a task that might have defeated a lesser person, but it was his outstanding skill with people, in making everyone feel involved and drawing out the best efforts of all, that characterised his Everest leadership and which were a hallmark, plain for all who knew him to see, of all his activities in later life. I have not doubt whatever that only large scale siege tactics had any hope of climbing Everest in the circumstances of the 1950s and the highly skilled military planner who was also so expert in man management and people motivation was the leader to win. The day of the successful lightweight alpine style expedition to the 8,000 metre Himalayan peaks was still thirty years in the future. Whilst John was away in Nepal Joy had spent most of her time at the cottage in Llanfair Waterdine, and on the coronation morning the sleepy corner of rural England (yes, England despite the spelling of the name) was suddenly hit by and invasion of the world's press anxious to explore every detail of the new hero's life.

Many mountaineers experience the pain and distress that comes when a climbing companion is killed, and John Hunt was no exception. Two such deaths struck him with particular force. Tom Bourdillon was a member of the 1953 Everest team and considered by many to have been the best British climber of his day. With Charles Evans he was the first to reach the south summit of Everest. In 1956 he was killed when climbing on the East Buttress of the Jägihorn in the Bernese Overland. Years later when I was walking with John in sight of the fatal crag he told me how much the tragedy had meant to him, saying that although he had known Bourdillon only since 1950 he perceived in him the son which he never had. The other tragedy was the death of Wilfred Noyce, another member of the 1953 Everest team. Noyce first met John Hunt in 1942 when he reported for duty as a young 2nd Lt to an army base in Norfolk where Hunt was 2nd in command. Within weeks they were climbing together in North Wales where Hunt had organised a "Toughening Course". Noyce played a crucial role in the success of the Everest expedition by forcing through the route from the top of the Lhotse face onto the south col at a critical moment when the assault looked as though it was running out of steam. In the years that followed Everest they climbed together in the Alps for several seasons. In 1962 John Hunt led and expedition to climb in the Pamirs at the invitation of the Soviets and a variety of hard routes was climbed by members of the party. Robin Smith and Wilfred Noyce together with two Russian climbers made the second ascent of Garmo Peak by its north ridge but sadly during the descent the two British climbers were killed. This event was keenly felt by Hunt, as he experienced the double agony of losing both a member of his expedition and a valued personal friend.

After Everest honours in both the mountaineering world and the wider world of public life flowed rapidly. A knighthood for the Everest triumph was followed by elevation to the peerage in 1966 after spending 10 years developing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and establishing that on a secure and lasting footing. It is a part of the memorial to him that there have now been more than 4 million young people who have achieved the gold award and the concept has been copied in more than 70 countries. His choice of style as Baron Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine showed his devotion to his rural retreat, and gave the village a recognition that it had never experienced before. Sitting in the House of Lords, initially taking the labour whip and later the social democratic whip, was lead to involvement in many new fields of public life including, inter alia, committees on policing in Northern Ireland, relief measures after the Biafran war, the royal commission on the press, and involvement with the probation service, national parks, and voluntary service overseas. In recognition of this lifetime of distinguished service to so many aspects of national life he was appointed a Knight of the Garter by the Queen in 1979, the highest honour in the gift of the sovereign. The order is limited to 24 Knights, and it delighted John to point out that 1997 no fewer than 3 of them were members of the Alpine Club; his banner as a Garter Knight was paraded at the very moving memorial service held in St George's Chapel, Windsor, and is to be laid up in the little church at Llanfair Waterdine.

John Hunt was a remarkable man, charming and witty, and blessed with great determination in every endeavour to which he put his hand but always pursuing his objective with sensitivity for other people. Now we say farewell and salute his memory and his deeds. For those of us privilege to have known him personally we have lost a dear friend whose life enriched all those that it touched, well encapsulated in some words said at his memorial service:

Not 'how did he die?' but 'how did he life?'
Not 'what did he gain?' but 'what did he give?'
These are the units that measure the worth
Of a man as a man, not matter his birth.

Not what the sketch in the newspapers say
But how many will miss him now he's passed away.

J S Whyte

Dr David John Lintott 1938 - 1999

David Lintott whose death occurred on January 7th was a member of the ABMSAC and the AC since the early 60s, shortly after his distinguished climbing career began while a medical student at Guy's Hospital. His early seasons were mainly in the Bernese Overland and the Valais with guideless ascents of many classical alpine routes with student friends. Subsequently numerous winter ski touring and summer climbing seasons were undertaken in the French Alps from his family chalet, in the Himalaya and more locally in the various mountain areas of the UK in the company of good friends from these clubs. He was recognised as a very talented courageous climber who always put safety first and could be totally relied on in difficult circumstances.

In his professional life David was a distinguished Radiologist in Leeds, held in high regard by his colleagues - as was evident in the tributes at his funeral service - and much in demand as an opinion.

David was an example to us all - sensitive to the needs of others, with a persona integrity to be admired, a loyalty which knew no bounds and above all a modesty which was evident in all his actions and contact with his fellow man. It was a privilege for his friends to be in his company and the many happy times which we recall will be a permanent memorial to him.

He leaves his wife, Anne, also a doctor, and three sons - Francis, Tim and Mathew - to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Frank Schweitzer

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at the Glenridding Hotel, Glenridding, Cumbria on Saturday 6th February 1999.

The President was in the Chair with 45 members present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Harry Archer, Antonia Barlen, John Byam-Grounds, Edward Coales, Keith Dillon, Nigella Hall, Phil Hands, Denise Lewis and John Percival.
2. The Minutes of the AGM held on 7th February 1998 were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.
3. Election of Officers and Committee
Committee Member Ed Bramley retired in rotation. The President thanked him for his contribution and announced that he has agreed to represent the Association on the Hut Management Committee.

The Committee had proposed Dr Roger Aldred for the vacant place on the Committee:

Seconded: Heather Eddowes
Passed unanimously

All other Officers and Committee members offered themselves for re-election:

Proposed: Alasdair Andrews
Seconded: Alf Lock
Passed unanimously

4. Accounts

The Hon. Treasurer having offered his apologies for his absence, the Hon. Secretary presented his notes and the unaudited accounts which had been distributed.

The Income from Members was lower than the previous year due to a small drop in membership. An apparent change in Affiliate Membership from Joint to Single was queried by the Hon. Registrar, which he will discuss with the Hon. Treasurer.

Expenditure on the journal, newsletter and printing/postage were slightly higher than the previous year. Losses on London activities were considerably higher but it was suggested that a £150 deposit for a room hire might have been included. The Hon. Treasurer was asked to give details.

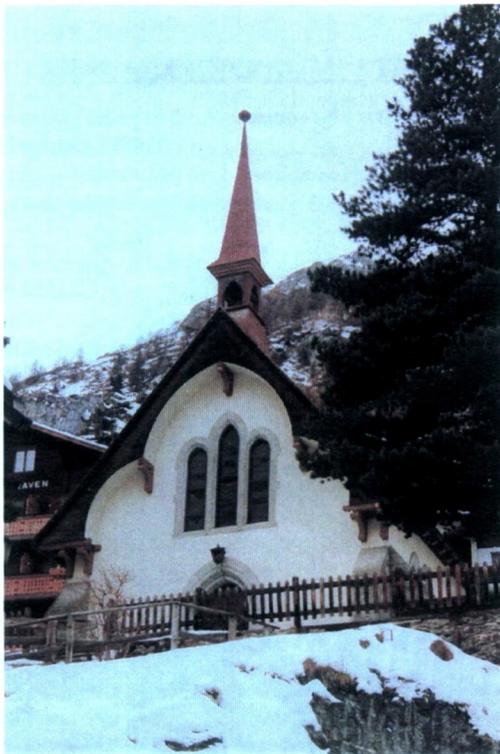
An excess of income over expenditure of £351 resulted, compared to £2337 in 1997. There were, however, several exceptional sources of income during that year.

Alf Lock asked that the audited accounts be published when completed. The Hon. Editor agreed to publish them in the Journal if they could be completed very quickly, but it would be more likely that they would appear with the next Newsletter. Wendell Jones asked that every effort be made to have the audited accounts available for the AGM in future.

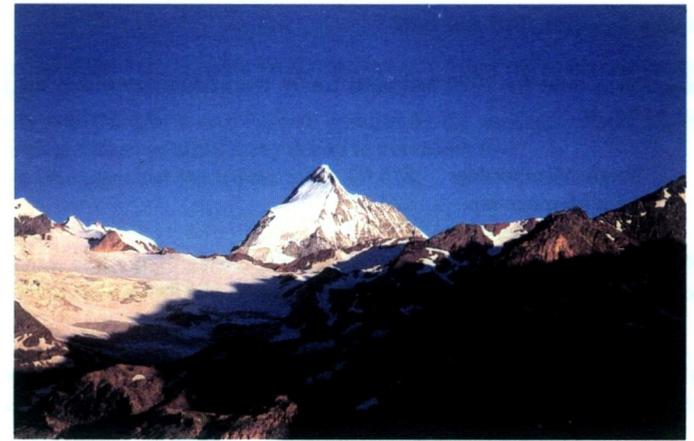
The adoption of the draft accounts, subject to satisfactory audit, was proposed by Bert Bowes, seconded by Alf Lock, and passed unanimously.



LORD HUNT AND ALBERT EGGLE



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ZERMATT. *Vivienne and Franz Hoeks.*



IN THE ORTLER. *Mike Pinney.*



KEN AND AVIS BALDRY IN SWITZERLAND.



WILDENKOGELWEG ON DESCENT FROM MATTREIER TAUERNHAUS. *Belinda Baldwin.*



COTOPAXI FROM ILINIZE SUR. *Peter Goodwin*

5. Subscription Rates for 1999 and 2000

The subscription rates for 1999 had been set by the Committee within the band agreed at the previous AGM, at:

Single Membership	£16.00
Joint Membership	£24.50
Junior Membership	£7.00

The proposed band within the Committee could set the rate for the year 2000, was:

Single Membership	£16.00 to £18.00
Joint Membership	£24.50 to £27.50
Junior Membership	£7.00 to £8.00

6. President's Report

"My report is much the same as last year's and it would almost be possible to take it as read - but I won't! We have had another active and successful year.

Membership

Our membership numbers are much the same as the previous year, as you have just heard.

Finances

We have heard from the Hon. Treasurer that the finances are sound. The margin of income to expenditure has given some concern but this is due to specific circumstances this year; your committee has however taken steps to improve the situation and this should be evident in next year's accounts. Our thanks to Keith for his efforts.

Meets

Our programme of meetings and meets is quite comprehensive thanks to the efforts of meet leaders and support of attendees - obviously there is no point in organising meets in which there is no interest. This seems very rarely to be a problem as we have well attended meets. We had a change of venue for the London meetings and this gave Peter Ledeboer some headaches but as usual he coped and the meetings have thrived. The Rembrandt Hotel venue seems to be working well. Thanks Peter.

The Scottish meets are numerous and well attended - many travelling from the London area in addition to the Northerners and Scots. Our thanks to Alasdair Andrews and this team of meet leaders.

We have had meets at the usual venues in Wales, the Lake District, Yorkshire Dales etc. At the Buffet party we invited a group from the Patterdale Parochial Church Council (our hut landlords) - it was an enjoyable meeting with 60 attending.

Meet leaders included Kathy McManus, Ed Bramley, Mike Goodyer, Peter Goodwin - our thanks to them and any I've not mentioned by name.

The Alpine Camping Meet was successful, led by Jeff Harris. This was the joint meet with the AC and CC, held in Lauterbrunnen eventually!

Wendell's walk was held in the Tyrolean Alps and was undertaken by a select band - thanks Wendell.

There was another Alpine Meet scheduled in Val d'Aosta but only Arline and I and some prospective members attended.

Maintenance meets were the only meets not well attended by the members of this Association which is disappointing. However, many many thanks to the valiant few.

Thanks again to all who organised and led our meets.

George Starkey Hut.

The intended purchase of the Hut freehold is in the same complex impasse as last year. We are chipping away at the problems and are very conscious of the approach of 2002.

Committee

During the year we have had four committee meetings, one each in London and Wales and two in Glenridding. They have been well attended - I thank on your behalf all the officers and members of the committee.

Obituaries

A number of members have died during the past year and it has been a sad task of the committee to write letters of condolence on behalf of the Association. Among those departed were Mrs. Mary Starkey, Dr David Lintott, and John, Lord Hunt. A number of the members attended John Hunt's memorial Service at St Georges' Chapel, Windsor Castle. I was privileged to represent the Association.

Finally I have thanked members last year for taking time and making the effort to attend meetings and meets. I am delighted to repeat my thanks; it is a pleasure to work on your behalf."

7. Any Other Business

The President introduced Bryan Richards GM, our Hon Vice-President, and asked him to say a few words to the meeting.

Bryan thanked the President, both for giving him the opportunity to address the meeting in the 90th anniversary year of the Association when his own 90th anniversary is imminent, and for the kindness shown to his wife and himself at Glenridding. He was glad to come, as he retains his love of the mountains and hearing talk of the things he used to do. The ABMSAC had introduced him to Alpine climbing, and he gave a brief resumé of the early history of the Association. He explained that the Association had wanted continuity, and that retiring Presidents were made Hon Vice-Presidents for life, with a place on the committee. This did not appear to be specifically covered by the constitution, but worked well for a number of years. When the idea was not needed anymore, no more were appointed, but he wished to explain his appearance on the list of committee members of a period of years.

George Starkey Hut

John Mercer asked what the position would be in October 2002 if nothing had been agreed about the freehold or lease for the hut. The President confirmed that the Association's primary objective was to purchase the freehold of the hut; an extension of the lease was a secondary aim. This issue cannot be forced with the PCC but he hoped that various initiatives such as the invitation to the Buffet Party were chipping away at the resistance within the Council. James Bogle had written to the Bishop of Penrith. Alasdair Andrews stated that the lease expires on 30th Sept. 2002. The rent has not year been agreed for the final four years. Don Hodge pointed out that formal notices were required before the final end of the lease if we wished to extend it; Alasdair is aware of this.

8. There being no further business the President declared the meeting closed at 6.50pm.