

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

EDITED BY JACK WRIGHT



SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE AWARD WINNER TO PRESENT EXPEDITION REPORT AT SOCIETY'S SPRING LUNCH IN APRIL.

After 28 days, Rich Potter became the first and only disabled person to complete the snowman trek in Bhutan. He successfully walked into Bunthang with his guide and crew, having just navigated the most difficult trek in the world. What started off as a pipe dream between two friends, ended as a bittersweet victory that covered every emotion known to man.

Battling high altitudes, constant GI issues, a lack of sleep, getting lost

at 5000m and extreme temperatures, Rich Potter also had to contend with losing his teammate on day 12, who sadly was no longer able to continue. Rich Davies's withdrawal only fuelled Rich Potter further to complete the mammoth expedition and despite multiple low points, Rich was delighted to have crossed the hypothetical finish line and illustrate to people back home just what disabled people can accomplish.



Rich Potter is excited to return to the CSS to deliver a presentation on his journey and will include intimate stories about his time on the mountains. Everything from an infected stump, washing at 5,500m to eating yak meat and getting 'high' with the climbing team on night 27, nothing will be off limits.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I write to you in mid February we've had a good old freezing over the winter months and a high percentage of us will have missed the Winter Fuel Allowance courtesy of our sweetheart Chancellor. These are uncertain times for all of us and particularly for those in Canada, Greenland, Gaza and Ukraine with the Trump and Musk honeymoon already showing signs of a potential divorce. It's at times like these that organisations such as our Society need to provide some prospect of wellbeing and hope so we've arranged a lively schedule of events to try to carry us through another year of zero growth (isn't it amazing that the Chancellor gets excited about the 0.1% growth in the last quarter?!).

Our programme is set out in the newsletter and as I've recently been re-reading Capt James Cook's biography (and I have to say that his achievements and contribution to scientific research and geographic exploration rather dwarf those of our Hero) it has spurred us on to repeat our own voyage of discovery to the largely uncharted land mass of Ilfracombe. This will be early in June and I'll email details nearer the time.

I'm sad to record the passing of one of our finest in John Evan Davies, who was our first Life Member and a former Deputy Chairman serving on the committee for very many years. I'll miss him personally as together with his close friend, Brian Thorpe another committee stalwart, I enjoyed many post committee dinners with him.

On behalf of our overworked Events Secretary can I emphasise that when booking an event **you should not assume that all is well with your reservation until you have a confirmatory email of telephone call from him.** It's sadly been the case that members assume because they have paid by credit transfer or posted a cheque that all is well. So do please help us to avoid disappointment by checking with Allan if you haven't received a response.

Spring will soon be upon us so chins up!

Best wishes as ever

Julian Rosser

julianrosser1@gmail.com

SOUTH GEORGIA ON ALERT FOR MEGA-BERG

The world's largest iceberg is on a collision course with the British territory of South Georgia - potentially putting millions of penguins and seals in danger. The trillion-tonne slab of ice, named A23a, broke free from its position last month and started drifting northwards.

The "mega-berg" - which is twice the size of Greater London and 130 feet tall - is expected to approach the remote island off Antarctica in the next two to four weeks. Experts fear for the island's rich wildlife. If the iceberg gets wedged in the shallow waters close to the island, it could block vital pathways for penguins to get food for themselves and their chicks.

This would mean parent penguins would have to swim further, burning more energy and bringing back less to feed their offspring.

That could dramatically increase mortality



rates among penguins, according to British Antarctic Survey physical oceanographer Andrew Meijer - something that has happened in the past.

He examined the colossal iceberg up close in December 2023 when it drifted past the research ship RRS Sir David Attenborough. It's a huge wall of ice that towers above the ship, he said.

"South Georgia is an amazingly ecologically rich island. It's a breeding ground for a huge number of penguins and seals," Mr Meijers said.

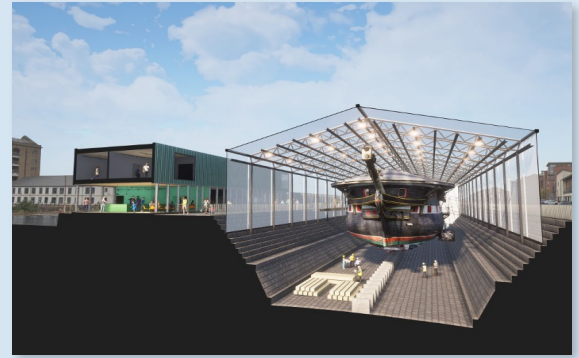
"There are lots of pups and chicks and they're all still dependent on their parents.



HMS UNICORN, SCOTLAND'S OLDEST SHIP HAS RECEIVED A £796,000 GRANT TOWARD THE COST OF MOVING IT TO A NEW DRY DOCK

The 201-year-old vessel is being relocated as part of the Project Safe Haven restoration scheme that will see it become the centrepiece of a new maritime heritage centre. The latest donation comes from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

A campaign to raise a further £650,000 by April, which will unlock additional grants worth £10m from other bodies



including the Tay Cities Deal, is currently under way.

HMS Unicorn was moved to Dundee in 1873 to become a training ship for the Royal Navy Reserves. Structural reinforcement work on the hull of the ship is currently ongoing. Future work includes emptying Dundee's East Graving Dock, repairing it with a new watertight chamber, making it structurally sound, and refilling it to receive HMS Unicorn, which will be

HMS Unicorn is the third-oldest ship in the world and has been under the care of the Unicorn Preservation Society since 1968.

The 46-gun frigate was built during peacetime and launched in 1824, spending its early life in reserve, anchored on the River Medway in the south east of England.

JOHN EVAN DAVIES OBITUARY



John really was one of our best and had been a loyal and dedicated member serving on the committee in various capacities for many years including in the role of Deputy Chairman. He was one

of the old school; a man of his word, honest, hardworking, witty and intelligent.

He went to Cardiff High School when it was a grammar school with an outstanding reputation and was very proud of this. He served his National Service and entered the family printing business, E Davies & Co and gained qualifications in the printing trade before joining the respected A. McLay and Co, a large printing company which he successfully acquired

by an MBO when it fell on hard times, saving hundreds of jobs. He served as Managing Director there until his eventual retirement.

Our first Life Member, he was made a Freeman of the City Of London and in retirement around his many activities and memberships enjoyed golf and collecting rare books and first editions.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

THE CARD PRESENTED TO THE SCOTT SOCIETY BY OUR DEAR FRIEND JOHN EVAN DAVIES

This memorial card was originally printed by E. Davies and Co of Cardiff on the return of the Terra Nova in 1913 and was reprinted and presented to the Captain Scott Society by A McLay & Co Ltd of Cardiff. It portrays the rare personal connection that John Evan Davies had with the 1910 British Antarctic Expedition, a connection that few other members have. This card was one of the many publications that John produced for the Society. *Article by Matthew Salisbury*

REPORTS OF PAST EVENTS

AUTUMN DINNER 2024

This year's autumn dinner was held at the Llanishen Golf Club.



The relatively small band of members and guests enjoyed a sparkling wine reception whilst engaging with the guest speaker Graham Loveluck-Edwards.

The three course dinner was enjoyed and the diners were invited to take a comfortable seat at the screen end of the room and the chairman introduced our speaker.

Graham has a large portfolio of talks and presentations and whilst he was booked to present *Pirates of the Glamorgan Seas* he decided it might be interesting to also include some elements of the religious, agricultural and bizarre history of south east Wales.

The presentation went down extremely well with the audience and this could account for Graham selling out the batch of books he'd brought to the event.

The chairman and committee were somewhat disappointed with the take up to the event but those attending were treated to a very good talk and we are sure to invite Graham to a future event.

PROFESSOR MARK BRENDON AWARDED THE POLAR MEDAL

Mark Brandon, Professor of Polar Oceanography has been awarded The Polar Medal by His Majesty King Charles III in recognition of his outstanding work and contribution to the scientific knowledge of the Polar Regions.

Mark has been at the Open University for over 20 years and has been Professor of Polar Oceanography since 2018.

The Polar Medal was first instituted in 1904 when it was awarded to the participants of Captain Robert F. Scott's successful first expedition to the Antarctic Region. It was later awarded to members of Sir Ernest



Shackleton's expeditions. In recent years the award has been awarded by The Monarch to UK and Commonwealth scientists who have completed outstanding work in the arduous conditions of a polar environment over a prolonged period and have worked to advance knowledge of the Polar Regions.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024

Friday the 13th December saw us return to the United Services Mess after an absence of four years. The venue was obviously welcomed by members as booking applications were filled prior to the cut off date.



Seventy hearty souls gathered in the lounge and the chairman and expedition secretary were kept busy mixing the Antarctic Blue whilst John Cosslett looked down from above happy to see his strange concoction being enjoyed by members and guests.

As for guests; it was wonderful to see our president and his wife Julia enjoying the pre-prandial drinks.

The party then took their places in the Tredegar room for the traditional lunch. The chairman welcomed everyone and did his best to ensure guests had some idea of the afternoons running order.

The chef presented the turkey for toasting with the finest of single malt whiskies and the rest of the lunch progressed to the passing of port, unusually this went quite well but might have had something to do with central sprigs being closely packed together. Those wishing to "ease springs" had to be patient.

Following the loyal toast the president gave an enthusiastic speech and toasted the future of the society.

Whilst the treasurer did not give the Japanese joke several in the party were happy to provide a joke or two. The chairman thanked one and all for being a lively bunch and invited them to retire to the members bar to round off the day.

SOCIETY REPORTS

EXPEDITION SECRETARY'S REPORT

Applications for the society awards are being received. The submissions will be shortlisted to six and adjudication is set for the 8th April.

Last year's Fuchs award winner Natalia Nowak issued an excellent report and it can be read on the website.

Our Spirit of Adventure award winner Richard Potter (with his partner Rich Davies) was front page news in our Autumn newsletter. The website news updated the team performance back in November.



Richard takes a break on the gruelling Snowman Trek

Richard has been very active since his return from Bhutan giving talks and presentations to organisations like BLESMA.



St Mary's year six pupils with banner

I was recently invited to talk to year six pupils at St. Mary's school in Butetown, Cardiff where pupils have been studying Captain Scott's association with the Cardiff docks. I was impressed with the knowledge they had concerning the Terra Nova voyage. A fun quiz in naming animals of Antarctica rounded off the visit.

Jack Wright
hazejon@talktalk.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Full details of the Society's financial situation will be disclosed at the AGM in May.

In the meantime, I would like to thank the huge majority of our members for their January membership subscriptions. Unfortunately, keeping track of members payments for the Christmas Lunch caused just a few headaches. If making a BACs payment, please remember to use a suitable reference making clear the reason for the payment. e.g. Scott Lunch (The name of the payer comes up automatically).

Keeping track of who wishes to attend an event can also be problematic. The events coordinator needs properly completed booking slips. Thanks to the majority who comply with this requirement but last minute and desperate endeavours can leave us wondering! Telephone messages to make bookings will not suffice.

Members who are fortunate enough to take last minute advantage of a cancellation, for which a payment has already been made, should make clear to the events coordinator the name of the member whose place is being taken and what funding or refunding arrangements are in place.

Julian Salisbury
jdosalisbury@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions are welcome from members of the Society and should be addressed to
Jack Wright - hazejon@talktalk.net

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership of the Society remains strong and stable.

The Society welcomes new members Robert Bailey and Ben Teague while sadly losing John Evan Davies, the first Life Member and retired committee member who's obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter. We are also sad to report the loss of Alan Evans and Ron Hooper to the Society.

While we look forward to meeting guests at our forthcoming events and hope they will enjoy their attendance we are also always keen to recruit new members in support of our key objectives and invite all members to suggest prospective candidates.

Peter F Coleman
peter.f.coleman@btinternet.com

FUTURE EVENTS

SPRING LUNCH
FRIDAY 11th APRIL
Llanishen Golf Club, Cardiff
Drinks reception 12.30
Book by 29th March

ANNUAL DINNER
FRIDAY 13th JUNE
Reception 18.30
Guest Speaker TBC
Cardiff and County Club, Cardiff
Book by 1st June

Please note that ALL FUTURE BOOKINGS should use the BOOKING FORM and be sent to ALLAN JONES - either by email attachment or by post:

Allan G Jones, 9 St Mark's Rd, Penarth, CF64 3PF
allan_jones@icloud.com

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

All bookings will be confirmed either by email or telephone using the information supplied on your booking form.
If you have not received confirmation by the cut-off date you are not booked for the event.
****If paying by BACs, it is essential that you also complete and return the booking form.****