



MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

Patron: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G., K.T.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2014 - 2015

The Mount Everest Foundation is the original – and still the most important – charity in the United Kingdom devoted to the support of mountain exploration and science. A lasting legacy of the 1953 British Expedition to Mount Everest has been this Foundation set up soon afterwards, financed from surplus funds and the royalties of the expedition book, 'The Ascent of Everest' (republished by Hodder and Stoughton in 2013 to mark the 60th Anniversary). Additional funds were raised from a nation-wide lecture tour by members of the team on their return.

The object of the MEF is to support exploration and research within mountain regions. This it has done most successfully. During the last 60 years it has supported over 1600 expeditions with grants that total over one million pounds from the interest on investment of capital. The majority go to small expeditions, but the Foundation has also supported expeditions to the Earth's highest peaks, fine examples of which were first ascents of and new routes on Mount Everest, Kangchenjunga, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Xixabangma, Nuptse, Kongur and the Ogre. Approval by the MEF, even without a grant, is often highly valued by an expedition seeking sponsorship.

Few serious mountaineering expeditions leave the shores of the United Kingdom or New Zealand without presenting their plans to the Screening Committee for scrutiny. Careful appraisal and advice by ones' well informed peers is invaluable. Approval provides legitimisation and authority to take back to employers or universities, as well as potential supporters.

APPLYING FOR SUPPORT

The main source of grants is the endowment from our capital investment. With the proceeds from our 60th Anniversary events the MEF has the potential to offer some major additional grants totalling up to £60k.

The MEF is a Registered Charity. Its aims are to encourage and support expeditions exploring mountain regions, and both education and research pertaining to a wide range of subjects in mountain areas, including geography, glaciology and the effects of altitude. Unless an expedition has research as its primary objective, it must have a strong exploratory element to be deemed eligible for support. Expeditions planning geographical exploration, first ascents of, or major new routes on high or remote mountains are likely to qualify. Applications from expeditions proposing to visit little-explored or formerly inaccessible areas are particularly encouraged, as are those pursuing worthwhile research. Normally, the MEF will only support expeditions where the majority of members come from Great Britain or New Zealand. Since 1991 the Foundation has also awarded the Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant to deserving female expeditions or individual climbers applying for MEF support. Grant applications must be made electronically, ie the latest version of the Application for Grant Form (down-loadable from the MEF website) must be submitted as an attachment to an E-mail addressed to the MEF Hon Secretary. The form also provides the basis on which Approval from the British Mountaineering Council is awarded.

The main obligation for all expeditions accepting MEF support is to provide a Summary Report and an account of expenses within four weeks of completion. A Final Report is required as soon as possible afterwards. Failure to observe this important requirement is likely to result in expedition members being refused future support. Copies of these reports are held by the Alpine Club, the Royal Geographical Society, the British Mountaineering Council, and the Alan Rouse Library in Sheffield. The Alpine Club is in the process of scanning all reports from MEF supported expeditions, and these will become accessible on line in 2016.

The Screening Committee meets to consider applications twice a year – in November and March. Closing dates for receipt of completed applications are 30th September and 31st January prior to the meetings. These dates are strictly observed, and expeditions are never considered in retrospect.

Venues have ranged from Antarctica to Alaska, from South America to Greenland and right across the Himalaya and Karakoram. Outstanding examples have been new routes on Ama Dablam, Asgard, Changabang, the Central Tower of Paine, Spantik, Siguniang, Taulliraju, Taweche, Xuelan West, Vasuki Parbat, and Nanga Parbat.

There have also been ventures devoted principally to scientific research. Notable among these were the RGS Mulu (Sarawak) Expedition, the RGS International Karakoram Project and high altitude physiological studies during the first ascent of Kongur (Xinjiang). In 1987 the Foundation initiated the publication of a Map and Gazetteer of the Mountains of Central Asia. On the basis of recommendations made by the Ghar Parau Foundation, each year the MEF also supports a number of caving expeditions taking place in high mountain areas.

The Foundation, which encourages the protection of mountains, their peoples, culture, fauna and flora, requires teams to follow strict environmental policies. It is administered by a Committee of Management and a Screening Committee nominated by the Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers): all members are unpaid. Donations and bequests to further these aims will be gratefully acknowledged.

An annual fund raising event is now held in the RGS Ondatje Theatre. The 2015 lecture on 3rd November was 'Life After Everest' by Stephen Venables, and the 2016 lecture will be on 1st November by John Porter. For full details check on the MEF website (www.mef.org.uk).

**All correspondence to: Glyn Hughes, MEF Hon Secretary, 73 Church Street, Chesham, Bucks HP5 1HY
Tel: 01494 792073 E-mail: glynhughes@waitrose.com Website: www.mef.org.uk**

2015 Expeditions supported by the MEF

Ref	Name of Expedition	Leader/Organiser	Country/Region	Objective	Grant
15-01	British Gorakh Himalaya	Julian Freeman-Attwood	Nepal	Unclimbed 6000m peaks in Far West Nepal	£2,400
15-02	Avellano Towers 2014	David Brown	Chile	NE Face of South Avellano Tower	£1,650
15-03	Eastern Karakorum 2015	Edward Poulter	India	6000m peak in Kunzang Range, Ladakh	£2,000
15-04	Northeast Greenland Caves	Gina Mosely	Greenland	Research climate change using cave deposits	£2,700
15-05	British Southern Fergana	Paul Josse	Kyrgyzstan	Exploration of Southern Fergana Range	£1,350
15-06	Cathedral Spires Alaska	Tim Blakemore	Alaska	Alpine style ascents in Cathedral Spires	£1,350
15-07	UK/US Himalchal Pradesh	Andy Nisbet	India	Unclimbed peaks in Darcha Valley	£2,000
15-08	Bioglaciology in W Greenland	Joseph Cook	Greenland	Role of microbes in shaping ice surfaces	£2,000
15-09	2015 Tamasa Nala	Derek Buckle	India	Unclimbed peaks in Tamasa Nala, Zanskar	£1,650
15-10	British Far West Nepal	Mick Fowler	Nepal	SW Ridge of Lachama Chuli, Changla Himal	£2,400
15-11	British Hayes Range	Will Sim	Alaska	Faces of Deborah and Mount Hess	£2,000
15-12	British Hayes Expedition	David Chapman	Alaska	South Ridge of peak 10910	£1,350
15-13	Ogre North Face 2015	Bruce Normand	Pakistan	North Face of The Ogre, Karakorum	£1,350
15-15	Virjerab Expedition	Pete Thompson	Pakistan	6000m peaks in Virjerab Glacier, Shimshal	£2,000
15-16	Silvestre/Graham Revelations	Ben Sylvestre	Alaska	Central Coulour of Pyramid Peak, Revelation Mtns	£1,650
15-19	British Universities Unclimbed	Seth Ford	Kyrgyzstan	Unclimbed peaks in North Inylchek Glacier	£1,650
15-20	Nanda Devi East 2015	Martin Moran	India	NE Spur of Nanda Devi East	£2,700
15-21	Khumbu Glacier	Ann Rowan	Nepal	Investigating mass loss processes	£2,400
15-22	NZ Western Kokshaal-Too	Paul Knott	Kyrgyzstan	First ascents from Palgov Glacier	£1,650
15-23	Sheffield Patagonia	Tom Ripley	Argentina	Routes on peaks in Fitzroy and Torre Ranges	£ 750
15-24	Kosmos 2015	Emily Ward	Kyrgyzstan	Ascent of Pik Cosmos, Western Kok-Shal Too	£1,650
15-25	There and Back Again	Rhys Tyers	New Zealand	Surveying caves in Marble Hills, NZ South Island	£1,350
15-26	British Tajikistan Pamirs	George Cave	Tajikistan	Exploratory mountaineering in the Muzkol Range	£1,350
15-27	Karakorum Anomaly Project	Sergiu Jiduc	Pakistan	Health of glaciers in the Karakorum	£ 675
15-28	Nameless Peaks of the Andes	Suzanne Imber	Chile	20 unclimbed peaks in the Andes	£2,400
15-29	Tangra Tower Expedition	James Monypenny	Pakistan	Ascent of Tangra Tower, Khane Valley, Karakorum	£1,000
15-31	Katkar Nala 2015	Calum Nicoll	India	Peaks of around 5900m in Zanskar/Ladakh region	£1,350
15-33	K6 Central 2015	Graham Zimmerman	Pakistan	South Face of K6 Central	£1,700
15-35	Milne 2015	Guillaume Lepert	Greenland	Exploration in South West Greenland	Approved

The Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant of £600 for 2015 was awarded to Emily Ward,

Leader of 15-24 Cosmos 2015 Expedition.

Rothschild Trust Grants for 2015 were awarded to 15-10 British Far West Nepal,

15-13 Ogre North Face, 15-20 Nanda Devi East, and 15-28 Nameless Peaks of the Andes.

Grants were of £500 each.

Total of above grants

£48,475

Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant

£600

Rothschild Trust Grants

£2,000

Donation to the Alpine Journal

£3,500

Value of grants allocated in 2015

£54,575

MEF Committee Information 2015

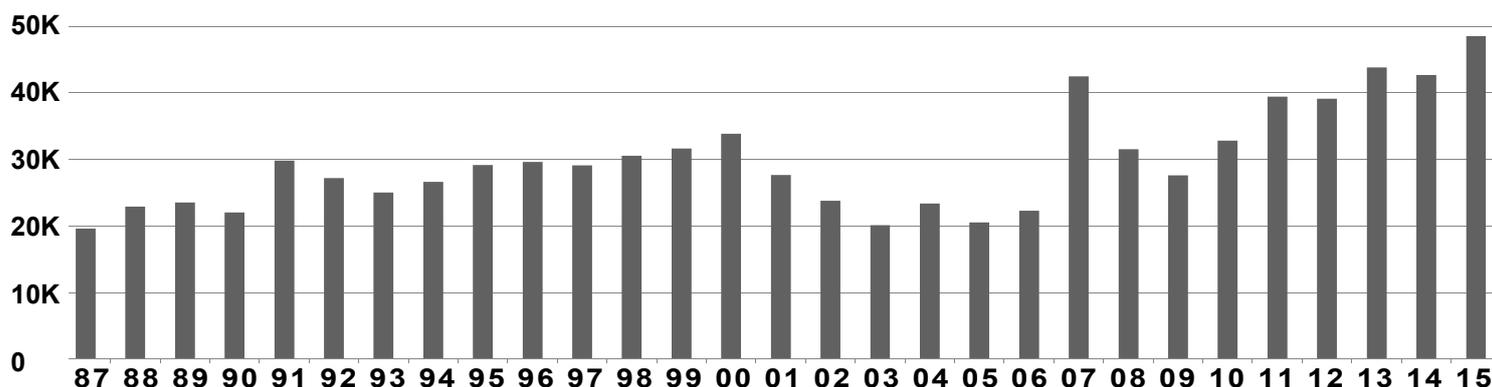
Committee of Management 2015	Screening Committee 2015
Doug Scott (Chairman)	Lindsay Griffin (Chairman)
<i>Nominated by the Royal Geographical Society:</i>	<i>Nominated by the Royal Geographical Society:</i>
Andy Hodsdon	Sundeep Dhillon
Alasdair Macleod	Julian Freeman-Attwood
Mike Smith	Becky Coles
<i>Nominated by the Alpine Club:</i>	<i>Nominated by the Alpine Club:</i>
Luke Hughes	Kenton Cool
Colin Scott	Chris Imray
John Porter	Tom Richardson
Peter Holden	
<i>Co-opted:</i>	<i>Representing the British Mountaineering Council:</i>
Lindsay Griffin (Screening Committee Chairman)	Nick Colton
Andy MacNae (Representing the BMC)	Hon Secretary: Glyn Hughes
Hon Secretary: Glyn Hughes	
Hon Treasurer: Sash Tusa	
Hon Legal Advisor: Dan Bastide	

THE LAST DATES FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE 20th SEPTEMBER AND 31st JANUARY PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED EXPEDITION

Destinations in 2015

Alaska	(4)
Argentina	(1)
Chile	(2)
Greenland	(3)
India	(5)
Kyrgyzstan	(4)
Nepal	(3)
New Zealand	(1)
Pakistan	(5)
Tajikistan	(1)

Grants to Expeditions 1987-2015



Chairman's Report for 2014-2015

Once again expeditions funded in 2014 were from a wide spread of countries, with no one country predominating.

The two expeditions to **North America** were both to **Alaska**. The first was to the Revelations Range (at the South Western edge of the Alaska Range) and had as objectives two first ascents – the West Face of the Titanic, and the North Face of Jezebel. The latter route looked unsafe due to snow conditions, so they climbed the route on Titanic in a single push, climbing unroped for 1,700 feet to the headwall, and roping up for 2,200 feet of technical climbing up to M6 and 5.8. After resting in base camp they set out on skis to explore another cirque to the South, but the leader suffered a crevasse fall, and this ended the expedition. The second was to the East Ridge of Mt Crillon in the Glacier Bay National Park, but heavy snowfall rendered this too risky, so they made a 20km traverse to a high bowl overlooking the Johns Hopkins Glacier. From here they made two first ascents of 7507ft and 7274ft, and identified a route up the South East Ridge of Peak 8290ft which they climbed the next day.

The two expeditions to **South America** were very different in nature. The expedition to **Bolivia** collected physiological and genetic data from young and healthy volunteers at low, moderate and high altitude and study the process of acclimatisation. The evaluation of the data obtained will take several months, but will provide information applicable to those spending time at high altitude. An expedition to the unclimbed East Face of San Lorenzo on the **Chile/Argentina** border decided to economise by shipping their gear in advance by courier, rather than pay excess baggage on their flight. The baggage never materialised, so they abandoned the expedition and nobly donated the locally purchased provisions to a charity for the homeless.

An expedition to **East Greenland** went to set up new routes in the Fox Jaw Cirque. This involved bold high quality slab climbing on gneiss of variable quality, and four new routes of up to 400m were completed. The team reported a great deal of climbing potential in the immediate area, and much more in remoter locations. A scientific expedition to **West Greenland** monitored changes in the ice margins of the Russel Glacier. They installed a total of 15 cameras, and will revisit the site in 2015 to download the data recorded. This information will lead to the understanding of outburst floods, which have caused destruction of infrastructure in the community of Kangerlussuaq.

Three expeditions visited the **Indian Himalaya**. An attempt on the North East Face of Chaukhamba IV in **Garhwal** was aborted because of massive volumes of snow deposited by strong westerly winds. As an alternative they tried the South West Buttress of the unclimbed Janahut (6805m). After two days, climbing mostly at night when the face was safely frozen, they reached the top of the buttress itself at about 6300m. On the third day they continued further along the ridge with superb climbing to about 6600m. Realising that they were not going to reach the summit that day they turned back and descended to their bivouac site at the top of the buttress, and then continued down the east side of the mountain to base camp. A team with the ambitious target of the North Face of Hagshu in **Jammu and Kashmir** were shocked to discover that a Slovenian team had also been given a permit for the same route, and were already ahead of them on the mountain. They decided to try an alternative line on the North East Face. This gave three days of mixed climbing up to Scottish Grade 6, which they followed by traversing the mountain via the unclimbed North Summit, the Main Summit, and the South East Ridge. They claim that their's was the better route. A team explored unclimbed peaks and sub-valleys of the Easter Lingti Nala region of the Indian Himalaya, with a main objective Kamen Gyalmo (6470m). They understood that getting to the mountain might be a problem, and this turned out to be the case. They explored the high plateau region including and surrounding Lagma (5795m), but complex terrain and deep canyons prevented a meaningful attempt.

Two expeditions visited the **Nepal Himalaya**. A New Zealand party attempted Anidesha Chuli (6900m) in North Eastern Nepal, the objective of another NZ party the previous year. After setting up a camp at 5200m, one of the team showed signs of AME, and then of HACO, and was evacuated to the base camp. During breaks in the bad weather that followed the other two members struggled through deep snow to a high point of 5700m, but abandoned their attempts when the bad weather returned. The other expedition was to Lumba Sumba Peak in Eastern Nepal, at the watershed of the Arun and Tamor river systems. A hidden couloir gave access to a steep snow slope leading to the North Ridge, and allowed a rapid ascent in two days from base camp, with five of the six members summiting.

Pakistan attracted three expeditions, but unfortunately none of which succeeded in their main objectives. A New Zealand team attempted Langua-tai-Barfi (7011m) in the Hindu Kush of North West Pakistan. They set up a series of four camps above their base, to a high point of about 6200m, involving stretches of deep snow. On the summit day they climbed 14 hours through deep snow, and with several hours more to the summit, and deteriorating weather, they retreated. Muchu Chhish is a 7453m peak on the Batura Wall in the Western Karakorum. An ambitious plan to make the first ascent by the South and West ridges had to be abandoned when they found that a long traverse was hard ice, and an attempt on neighbouring Gutum Talji was impractical due to lack of ice. A change of scenery to the Pregar in the Morkhoon Valley brought no better luck, with unconsolidated snow. An attempt on Link Sar

(7041m) in the Charakusa Valley via the North Face went well on the face itself, in spite of bad conditions and weather, but they decided that conditions were too dangerous to continue to the summit.

Unfortunately the three expeditions to **China** were also unable to achieve their main objectives. A two man team attempting the North Durbin Kangri I (6952m) in the Shaksgam region of Xinjiang had to turn back when they found that the ice on the North Face was hollow, covering extremely poor rock, and that the snow on the North East Flank had avalanched. Crossing to the Zug-Shaksgam to explore the Burnag Gangri brought no better luck, and they retreated in deteriorating weather. Another expedition in Xinjiang province attempted Liushen Tag (6595m), in the Kun Lun mountains, by the South Flank. From a base camp at 4959m they found a route leading to the South Spur of the mountain and established a camp at 5400m. They continued to a high point of 5,900m, but were forced to retire because of illness, unavailability of water, and time limitation. However, they had identified a route to the South Summit (c6500m), which unfortunately blocked the view of the main summit. An expedition to the Xuelian Massif in the Chinese Tien Shan was shortened after baggage was lost, and they concentrated on their second objective, Xuelian East (6400m). Close inspection identified the East Ridge, followed by a traverse of Xuelian Feng, as a target, and they established an advanced base camp. The weather deteriorated, but taking advantage of a weather window they reached 5200m on the ridge. They were then caught in a two day snowstorm, and with supplies running out returned to base camp.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan attracted a total of six teams. An expedition to climb and ski peaks of 5000-6000m in the Vanj Range in the Tajikistan Pamirs got off to a bad start when the leader suffered a suspected broken leg. The rest of the party managed to climb two peaks of 5313m and 5100m, before cutting the expedition short. A team of six visiting the Fersmana Valley of the Western Kokshal-Too of Kyrgyzstan, attempted first ascents alpine rock routes, including Little Poobah (5481m). A total of six first ascents were made of peaks 4500m-4900m, plus a number of multi-pitch rock routes on lower crags, but their attempt on Little Poobah itself failed due to poor snow conditions. A large group of nine targeted a number of unclimbed peaks in a remote area of the Djangart Mountains of Kyrgyzstan. They explored three glacier systems, and made 11 first ascents of peaks in the range 4500m-5100m, and put up one new alpine length rock route. An unnamed peak of about 6123m was the objective of an expedition to the Muzkol Valley of the Tajikistan Pamirs. A high point of 5900m was reached on the West Ridge by two parties following different routes, but the climbers had to retreat because of loose rock and a lack of snow. Exploration further up the valley was halted by rock slabs and walls exposed by glacial retreat. Another attempt on a peak of about 5500m, believed to be unclimbed, was successful. An expedition to the Jiptik Valley in Kyrgyzstan was obliged to change plans because of access problems through the Tajikistani enclave of Vorukh. The Yashil-Kul valley offered three peaks of 5000m plus, but access was hindered by receding glaciers, landslides and avalanches. They concluded that unclimbed peaks of 4000m plus in the Tutek-Su would probably be accessible. Another expedition to Western Kok-Shal-Too targeted an unclimbed peak of 5611m to the north of Pik Belyi, plus a number of peaks along the southern boundary of the Navlikin Glacier. A party which crossed the col at the head of the Kotur Glacier to access the head of the Navlikin basin were pinned down by a storm and failed to summit. However they did climb all the peaks around the lower part of the Kotur Glacier, completing a total of 13 routes, including two peaks not shown on the map.

The one caving expedition funded in 2014 was to the Shan Plateau in **Myanmar**, and was the fifth British expedition to this area. Benefitting from being allowed to stay villages close to the caves being explored, they mapped five new cave systems, and established connections with other neighbouring systems. They also reached the deepest mapped cave in Myanmar. They mapped a total of 5km of caves.

This has been a difficult year for the MEF, following the death of our Hon Treasurer Richard Morgan in January. Richard had served as Hon Treasurer for 25 years, during which time he oversaw the investment and growth of our endowment fund, and efficiently distributed the grants approved by the Management Committee. He is much missed. We are very fortunate that Sash Tusa, who had been helping Richard on the investment side, has stepped in to replace him. Sash had a difficult start dealing with the banking problems which followed Richard's death, but happily has been able to resolve them, and we look forward to working together with Sash to continue Richard's good work.

For the past few years we have required expedition leaders to provide several hard copies of their reports, which were then distributed to the Alpine Club, the Royal Geographical Society, the British Mountaineering Council, and the Alan Rouse Memorial Library in Sheffield. Access to the reports was by personally visiting one of these locations, or by ordering copies from them. Starting in 2016 we will require only digitised reports, and the organisations involved are simplifying access to these. Both the Alpine Club and the RGS have programmes to digitise their existing archives of reports, and to make them available on line. We look forward to receiving exciting new applications for grants for expeditions in 2016

Doug Scott, Chairman of the Management Committee