



# MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

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

## ANNUAL REVIEW 2015 - 2016

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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 income from our capital investment. With the proceeds from our 60<sup>th</sup> 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 should be made using the MEF Grant Application Form, which can be found on the MEF web site, and sent to the Hon Secretary as an e-mail attachment. This form can also be used in applying for a grant from the British Mountaineering Council

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 since 1955, and these should become accessible on line by the end of 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, VasukiParbat, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> November was 'Life After Everest' by Stephen Venables, and the 2016 lecture will be on 1<sup>st</sup> November by John Porter. For full details check on the MEF website ([www.mef.org.uk](http://www.mef.org.uk)).

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Tel: 01494 792073 E-mail: [glynhughes@waitrose.com](mailto:glynhughes@waitrose.com) Website: [www.mef.org.uk](http://www.mef.org.uk)**

# 2016 Expeditions supported by the MEF

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name of Expedition</b>	<b>Leader/Organiser</b>	<b>Country/Region</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Grant</b>
16-01	Khumbu Glacier 2016	Scott Watson	Nepal	Research changes to the Khumbu Glacier	£2,400
16-02	Khumbu new routing 2016	Will Harris	Nepal	Pharilapcha North Face	£ 900
16-03	British Services Dhaulagiri	Adrian Mellor	Nepal	Research into AMS at high altitude	£1,650
16-04	High Hindu Kush	Pat Deavoll	Afghanistan	Traverse of Langua-e-Barfi and Koh-e-Langare	£1,200
16-06	Miyar Valley	Derek Buckle	India	Unnamed peaks above Miyar Glacier	£2,400
16-07	West Nyainqentanglha	Paul Ramsden	Tibet	North Buttress of Nyainqentanglha Feng	£3,250
16-08	Alichursky Mountains Ski	Alex Reid	Tajikistan	Exploration and ascents in Northern Alichursky	£1,200
16-14	West Face Celeno	Graham Zimmerman	Alaska	West Face of Celeno Peak	£2,900
16-15	Djengi-Djer	Struan Chisholm	Kyrgyzstan	Explore and climb in Djengi Djer range	£1,200
16-16	British Mount Hunter	Ben Silvestre	Alaska	South Face of Mt Hunter South	£1,650
16-18	British Chamlang	Andrew Houseman	Nepal	North Ridge of Chamlang	£2,900
16-19	Jangpar Wall	Martin Moran	India	North Spur of Peak 5755	£2,900
16-20	Juneau Icefield	Tom Bide	Canada/Alaska	First ascents in Juneau Icefield area	£1,200
16-21	QUBMC Kaindy	Owen Largey	Kyrgyzstan	Peaks in Kaindy Glacier basin	£1,650
16-22	Jiptik	John Proctor	Kyrgyzstan	North Face of Muz-Tok	£1,650
16-24	Gulmit Tower	Peter Thompson	Pakistan	Gulmit Tower in Hunza Valley	£2,000
16-25	British Renland	Geoff Hornby	Greenland	Unclimbed Mountains in Renland	£1,650
16-27	Tortoisebutler Kyrgyzstan	Miles Gould	Kyrgyzstan	Exploration and first ascents in eastern Kuiluu	£1,650
16-29	Team BMG Mount Laurens	John Crook	Alaska	East Buttress of Mount Laurens	£1,200
16-30	Vishnugarh Darh	Susan Jensen	India	Unclimbed peaks in Vishnugarh Darh, Garhwal	£1,200
16-31	Gangstang	Malcolm Bass	India	NW Ridge or N Face of Gangstang	£2,400
<p>The Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant of £600 for 2016 was awarded to Susan Jensen, leader of 16-30 Vishnugarh Darh expedition.</p> <p>Total of above grants £39,150          Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant £600          Donation to the Alpine Journal £3,500          Total value of grants awarded in 2016 £43,250</p>					

## MEF Committee Information 2016

### Committee of Management 2016

Luke Hughes (Chairman)

#### Nominated by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Doug Scott

Alasdair MacLeod

Dr Mike Smith

Dr Stuart Dunning

#### Nominated by the Alpine Club

Colin Scott

John Porter

Peter Holden

#### Co-opted

Lindsay Griffin (Screening Committee Chairman)

Andy McNae (representing the BMC)

#### Hon Secretary

Glyn Hughes

#### Hon Treasurer

Sash Tusa

#### Hon Legal Adviser

Dan Bastide

### Screening Committee 2016

Lindsay Griffin (Chairman)

#### Nominated by the RGS (with IBG)

Julian Freeman Attwood

Becky Coles

Dr Sundeep Dhillon

#### Nominated by the Alpine Club

Kenton Cool

Professor Chris Imray

Paul Ramsden

#### Co-opted

Nick Colton (representing the BMC)

#### Hon Secretary

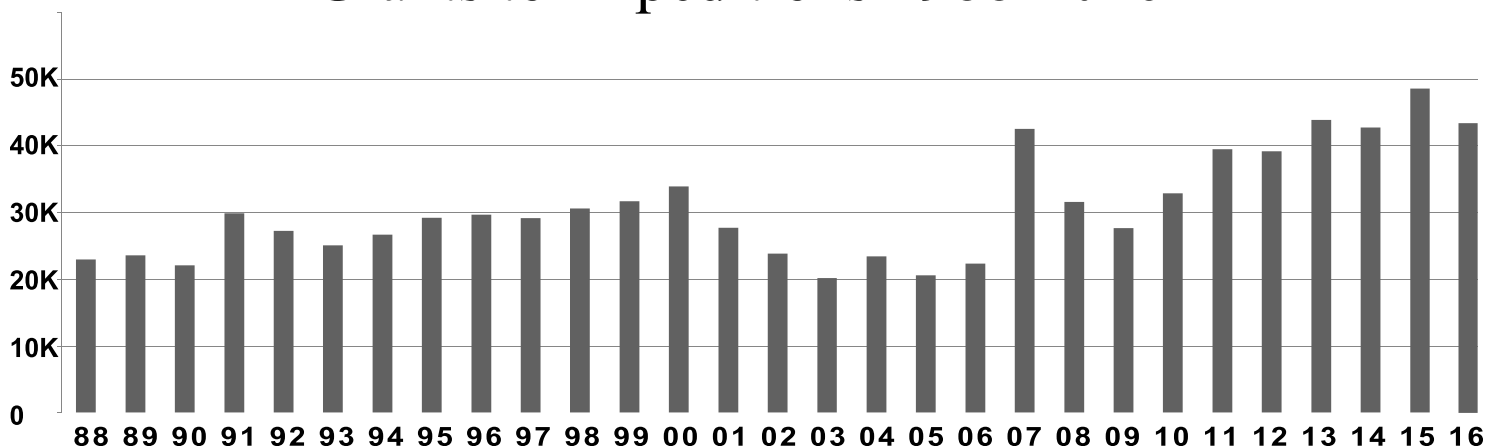
Glyn Hughes

**THE LAST DATES FOR RECEIPT OF COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE  
30th SEPTEMBER AND 31st JANUARY PRIOR TO THE PROPOSED EXPEDITION**

### Destinations in 2016:

Alaska	(4)
South America	(3)
Greenland	(2)
Indian Himalaya and Karakorum	(5)
Nepal Himalaya	(3)
Pakistan	(5)
Central Asia	(4)
New Zealand	(1)

## Grants to Expeditions 1988-2016



# Chairman's Report for 2015-2016

Expeditions supported in 2015 covered a wide geographical range, and also a broad spread of difficulty.

There were four expeditions to **Alaska**, all two man teams, and all suffering difficult weather conditions. The Cathedral Spires team experienced several days of heavy snow, but patience was rewarded when the weather cleared, and they, forced a hard route on North Triple peak. Two expeditions went to the Hayes Range, the first completing a new route on the NW Face and Ridge of Deborah. Unfortunately the second team were forced to retreat from a technical mixed climb on a peak to the West of Mount Hayes when faced with unstable snow and loose rock. The expedition to the Revelations Range had to change their original objective when they were unable to land on the Revelation Glacier, so transferred their attention to the E Face and E Summit of Jezebel. Here, on their third attempt, they managed a good mixed route to the summit before bad weather came in.

Of the three expeditions to **South America**, two were to Patagonia. A party of four to the Avellano Towers attempted a route on the southernmost tower, but their first attempt was interrupted by a storm, and when they resumed their attempt they found that a rockfall had swept away a section of fixed rope. They tried a different line, but this attempt was also ended by more bad weather. Another party had designs on routes on Aguja CAT and Aguja Bifida. After repeating existing routes on Aguja Guillaumet and Aguja de la S, they addressed a new line on the E Face of Aguja Bifida. This followed a huge slab leading to the S Ridge, and thence on to the summit. The third expedition to South America was very different in nature. Using a digital elevation model of the Andes it was possible to identify all mountains over a specified height, and a total of 110 independent peaks over 6000m and 1129 over 5000m were listed. The expedition selected 20 peaks believed to be unclimbed, and in spite of extreme weather climbed a total of 12 peaks, six of which were unclimbed. They plan further attempts in 2016.

The two expeditions to **Greenland** each had scientific objectives. The first explored caves in Kronprins Christian Land in Northeast Greenland, collecting samples, mainly of calcite deposits. These will be analysed to provide information on temperature and moisture change, vegetation processes, and dating. The second was to Western Greenland, where the team studied the role of glacier microbes in shaping ice surfaces. They examined microbial habitats, fungal ecology, carbon and nutrient cycling, metabolomics and ice physics. Analysis of the data collected on each of these expeditions will be ongoing.

A total of five expeditions were to the **Indian Himalaya and Karakorum**. A party of seven went to the Rongdo Valley in Ladakh to attempt an unclimbed 6000m+ peak. They made an attempt on Peak X3 (6100m), and reached 6050m before retreating in deteriorating weather and snow conditions. Further attempts were also thwarted by bad weather. An expedition to Himalchal Pradesh succeeded on an unnamed peak of 6010m approached from the Darcha-Mayar Valley. However they found bamboo wands on the summit, which they believe to have been left by an unofficial ascent from the other side. A senior team of five to the Tamasa Nala attempted a 'Matterhorn-like' peak at the head of the valley, but had to retreat when they ran out of time. However they did climb peaks of 5916m and 5947m. A very experienced party had the NE Ridge of Nanda Devi East as their objective, but had to retreat from 6865m when faced with unstable snow. They felt that with an alternative line and better conditions that the route would be feasible. The Katkar Nala expedition made the first ascent of peak L5 in the Zaskar/Ladakh region. An attempt on a further peak was foiled by approaching bad weather.

Three expeditions visited the **Nepal Himalaya**. The first was to attempt a 6000m peak in a remote part of the Gorakh Himal. Two of their staff were from the Manslu area of Nepal, and when news came through of the earthquake centred in that locality they went back home to help their families, and the expedition was ended for humanitarian reasons. The Far West Nepal expedition made a six day first ascent of Gave Ding (6571m), but decided not to continue with a ridge traverse to Lachama Chuli (6721m). A scientific expedition studied mass loss processes on the Khumbu Glacier see how it is responding to climate change. All the measuring equipment was installed, and results will be published in due course.

**Pakistan** was the destination of five expeditions. An attempt on the North Face of the Ogre (7285m) was abandoned at 7100m when faced with unsafe conditions and a lack of anchors. The Vijerab Expedition failed on peaks of 6140m and 6020m, but made the first ascent of Peak 6104 (Harjoldur Sar) by the South Couloir and West Ridge. A scientific expedition to the Hispar-Muztagh and Panmah-Muztagh regions studied the Karakorum Anomaly, where some glaciers are stagnating or even growing, rather than retreating. They found no immediate risk of glacial lake outburst

floods in Shimshal Valley. An attempt on the unclimbed Tangra Tower in the Khane Valley ended in retreat after five days climbing when they ran out of water and gas. The expedition to the S Face of K6 Central changed objective when they found the intended route threatened by huge seracs. Instead they put up an 1800m route on the SW Ridge of K6 West (7040m) with varied climbing, grade M6, and two bivouacs.

**Central Asia** was again popular, with four expeditions to Kyrgyzstan and one to Tajikistan. A team heading for the Kokbel Valley in Kyrgyzstan was met by a hunting party already established there, and had to change destination to the Karakol Valley. Two traverses were completed, one taking in Peaks 4450 and 4557, and the other of the Horseshoe Ridge which included Peaks 4361 and 4330. A University party visited the North Inylchek Glacier in Kyrgyzstan, where all four members reached the summit of Peak 5023. A New Zealand duo headed for the Pagov Glacier climbed Peak 5190, traversing an unclimbed 4973 summit on the descent. They then climbed Peak 5602 via the W Face and N Ridge. The Kosmos 2015 expedition planned a new route on the N Face of this 5940m mountain, but decided that it was too dangerous with serac falls and avalanches. Instead they climbed Peak 5190 via a 700m couloir, and summit ice and snow slopes. Other ascents included Peak Alpini and Peak 4326 during the walk in, and Pik Oleg (64600m) on the trek out. The Tajikistan expedition was to explore the AkBaikal valley in the Muzcol range in the east of the country. Although their original objective proved impractical, they did complete four ascents, three of which were on new routes on the previously climbed Pk 5560, and the fourth was the first ascent of Pk 5792.

The one caving expedition during the year was to the Takata Hills in the South Island of **New Zealand**, where the team found a new passage deep in an already discovered cave, and then explored and surveyed several new caves.

One of the priorities for the Committee is, increasingly, encouraging high quality applications, the number of which appears to have fallen off in recent years. The robustness of the original constitution (drafted in 1955) has stood the test of proving its relevance for more than 60 years. Nevertheless in this time there have been changes to legislation covering both charities and companies, and also the nature of genuinely exploratory expeditions has evolved. There is a feeling that we could do more to encourage such projects, and to publicise the work of the MEF and the grants available, particularly to university climbing clubs. Accordingly, this year we have begun to review the original intentions of the founders, and see if there are changes that we can make to produce these results. With this in mind we recently increased the value of grants made. So, while the MEF continues in good health, please pass this message on to potential beneficiaries.

Special thanks must go not only to the Hon Secretary Glyn Hughes, and to the Hon Treasurer Sash Tusa, on whom much of the administrative burden falls, but also to the members of the Management Committee and the Screening Committee who put in so much time, thought and care. Sitting round the Committee table with them all reminds me how seamlessly the young Turks of yesterday have slipped into the role of the Old Guard.

Luke Hughes

Chairman of the Management Committee

