



MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

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

ANNUAL REVIEW 2013 - 2014

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 to mark this 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. 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,

APPLYING FOR SUPPORT

This year, through the generosity of recent donors, 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 six weeks of completion.

A Final Report is required as soon as possible afterwards. Failure to observe this important requirement is likely to result in a leader being refused future support. Copies of these reports are held (some on line) by the Alpine Club, the Royal Geographical Society and the British Mountaineering Council.

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.

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 requests to further these aims will be gratefully acknowledged.

An annual fund-raising event is now held in the RGS Ondaatje Theatre. 2013 was the Sixtieth Anniversary of the First Ascent of Mount Everest, and on Wednesday 29th May, the MEF joined with the Himalayan Trust UK to celebrate the occasion with ‘Crowning Achievement, Lasting Legacy’ in the presence of HM The Queen and our Patron, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The celebration took the form of a tribute to the 1953 team. Chaired by Stephen Venables, speakers included Sir Chris Bonington, Doug Scott & Rebecca Stephens plus Peter Hillary and Jamling Tenzing (sons of the original summiters) and Jan Morris (The Times correspondent in 1953). For more details, see MEF website (www.mef.org.uk)

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2014 Expeditions supported by the MEF

Ref	Name of Expedition	Leader/Organiser	Country/Region	Objective	Grant
14-02	Reaching the 'Roof of the World'	Susanna Walker	Tajikistan	The Rushan Range of the Pamirs	£1,350
14-03	NZ Anidesha Chulu Expedition	Pau Hersey	Nepal	Anidesha Chuli NE Face & N Ridge	£2,400
14-04	Graham Silvestre Patagonia	Peter Graham	Patagonia	New Routes in Chalten Region	£1,000
14-05	Shan Plateau Caving Expedition	Peter Talling	Myanmar	Kyung Khaung cave system	£1,000
14-07	Chaukumba Skyline Expedition	Malcolm Bass	India	Traverse of Chaukumba Skyline	£2,700
14-08	New Zealand Hindu Kush	Pat Deavoll	Pakistan	Peaks in Roshgol Glacier Region	£2,000
14-10	British Hagshu Expedition	Mick Fowler	India	N Face and Traverse of Hagshu	£2,000
14-11	British Spiti Expedition	Derek Buckle	India	Mountains NE of Spiti Valley	£2,000
14-12	2014 Shaksgam Expedition	Bruce Normand	China	Durbin Kangri by the North Face	£1,700
14-13	British Little PoohBah	Adrian Dye	Kyrgyzstan	Peaks in Western Koshkal Too	£1,350
14-14	DEMAR Expedition	Jamie Goodhart	Kyrgyzstan	Unclimbed Peaks in Djangart Region	£1,350
14-15	Lumba Sumba Peak 2014	Paul Vardy	Nepal	Lumba Sumba Peak, Eastern Nepal	£1,000
14-16	APEX 4 Expedition	Shona Main	Bolivia	Physiology at different altitudes	£2,000
14-17	Revelations 2014	Graham Zimmerman	USA/Alaska	Ascents in Revelations Range in Alaska	£1,350
14-18	Muzkol Expedition 2014	Becky Coles	Tajikistan	The 'Matterhorn of Muzkol'	£2,000
14-19	San Lorenzo East Face	Matt Helliker	Patagonia	East Face of San Lorenzo	£1,650
14-20	Brady Icefield Expedition	Paul Knott	USA/Alaska	East Ridge of Mount Crillon	£1,650
14-21	Muchu Chhish Expedition	Pete Thompson	Pakistan	Muchu Chhish by the S and W Ridges	£3,400
14-22	Liushen Tag Expedition	John Town	China	Liushen Tag in the Kun Lun	£1,650
14-23	Jiptik 2014	Edward Lemon	Kyrgyzstan	N Face of Muz-Tok in Batken Province	£2,000
14-24	2014 Navlikin Expedition	Emily Ward	Kyrgyzstan	Peaks in Western Kokshal Too	£1,650
14-25	Chinese Tien Shan 2014	Sam Thompson	China	Khanjaylak 1 and Xuelian East	£2,000
14-27	Wall to Wall 2014	Cathy Alldred	Greenland	New routes in the Fox Jaw Cirque	£750
14-28	Ice-marginal Dynamics	Joseph Mallalieu	Greenland	Monitoring ice-marginal dynamics	£1,000
14-29	LINK sar 2014	Jonathan Griffith	Pakistan	N Face of Link Sar in Charakusa Valley	£1,700
The Alison Chadwick Memorial Grant of £500 for 2014 was awarded to Emily Ward, Leader of 14-24 Navlikin Expedition.					£42,650
Rothschild Trust Grants for 2014 were awarded to 14-07 Chaukumba Skyline, 14-12 Chaksgam, 14-21 Muchu Chish, and 14-29 Link Sar. Grants were £750 each.					£500
TOTAL OF ABOVE GRANTS					£3,000
ALISON CHADWICK MEMORIAL GRANT					£3,000
ROTHSCHILD TRUST GRANTS					£3,000
DONATION TO THE ALPINE JOURNAL					£3,000
TOTAL OF ALL GRANTS IN 2014					£49,150

MEF Committee Information 2014

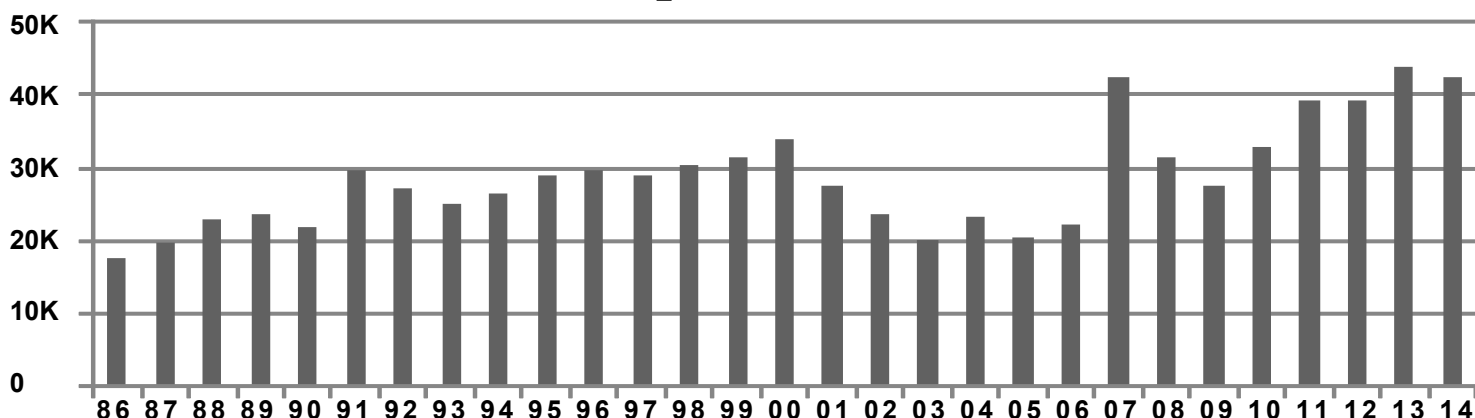
Committee of Management 2014	Screening Committee 2014
Doug Scott (Chairman)	Lindsay Griffin (Chairman)
<i>Nominated by the Royal Geographical Society:</i>	<i>Nominated by the Royal Geographical Society:</i>
Andy Hodsdon	Sundeep Dhillon
Alasdair Macleod	Julian Freeman-Attwood
Mike Smith	Becky Coles
<i>Nominated 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: Richard Morgan	
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 2014

Bolivia	(1)
China/Tibet	(3)
Greenland	(2)
India	(3)
Kyrgyzstan	(4)
Myanmar	(1)
Nepal	(2)
Pakistan	(3)
Patagonia	(2)
Tajikistan	(2)
USA	(2)

Grants to Expeditions 1986-2014



Chairman's Report for 2013-2014

Expeditions supported by the Mount Everest Foundation in 2013 were more evenly spread around the world than usual, with no one country attracting significantly more trips than any other.

There were three expeditions to **North America**, but both trips to the **USA** were badly affected by heavy snowfall. A team hoping to attempt a line on the NE Face of the Bear's Tooth realised that conditions were far too dangerous, but managed to repeat a 1000m ice/mixed route on the South side of the Moose's Tooth. Similarly, a team hoping to climb a new route on Mount Augusta turned instead to Mount Eaton (3336m), making its first ascent, but were then trapped in their tent for eight days during the descent, finally escaping by means of a rescue helicopter. In the Wrangell St Elias range of **Canada** conditions were so bad that a team was tent-bound for several days before they even attempted their objective – the North Spur of St Elias (5010m) - making them realise that to continue would expose them to severe risk of frostbite, so they abandoned the trip and returned home.

The three expeditions to **South America** were slightly more fortunate with the weather, although in **Chile** a strong team hoping to climb the SW Face of the South Tower of Paine (the biggest unclimbed 'big wall' in Patagonia) was trapped in the valley for eight days due to high winds. They therefore decided to try and complete a line on the SE Face started in 2006. The wind prevented them reaching the actual summit, but only 100m of easy climbing remained. A team in the Cordillera Darwin range was forced to abandon its attempt on Roncagli III (2019m), due to dramatic changes in the glacier since the leader's visit in 2007. A team planning new routes in the Fitzroy group of **Argentina** found that it was too cold for serious rock climbing, so had to be content with repeating routes on Aguja Poincenot (3036m) and Aguja Guillaumet (aka 'La Guillo', 2579m).

Further south, **Antarctica** attracted three expeditions. A mainly Alpine Club team sailed from Ushuaia to the peninsula where they made first ascents of six peaks between 616m and 2270m before abandoning further attempts and heading for home due to the forecast of worsening weather which could have trapped them in an ice pack. A trip to South Georgia achieved some of its objectives, but also had to be curtailed due to weather. In Queen Maud Land, a very strong team climbed a new big wall route on the NE Ridge of Ulvetanna (2931m). The film of the climb '*The Last Great Climb*' has already won prizes at Kendal and Banff.

Both expeditions to **Greenland** were successful. In Liverpool Land (East Greenland) a team from the Eagle Ski Club made the first ascents of six peaks up to 1100m, while the other team (half of which had sailed from Canada across a [gale-ridden Labrador Sea](#)) climbed five new big-wall routes around Umanak Fjord in West Greenland.

All three expeditions to **India** were successful, with first ascents of Chamsen (7017m) in the Saser Group and Kailash (6451m) in the Kishtwar Himalaya. In the Himachal Pradesh region another team made a number of first ascents of peaks c.6000m.

There were two expeditions to **Nepal**. A team from New Zealand hoped to make the first ascent of Anidesha Chuli (aka 'White Wave', 6808m) in the far east of the country. Unfortunately, one of the climbers fell 85m incurring serious head injuries, so his companions concentrated on getting him down to a low camp, from where a helicopter evacuated him to hospital. Although they did not make it to the summit of their objective on this occasion, they think that they know a less technical route, so will no doubt be returning. Another team planned a first ascent in the Changla Himal, but were refused access, so visited the Chandi Himal range instead. Their attempt on the highest peak, Chandi Himal (6069m) was stopped at 6000m by a pillar of loose rock which formed the summit itself. However, they did climb a subsidiary snow dome of 6024m.

A team visiting the Charakusa valley in **Pakistan** suffered extreme heat which prevented them from attempting the first ascent of Link Sar (7041m). A return visit is already being planned.

Kyrgyzstan attracted three expeditions, two of them to the Djangart. Both made first ascents of several peaks c.5000m. The other trip was to

the West Mustabbes region, which was thoroughly explored, including first ascents of eight peaks c.4500m.

A group of young students on an expedition to **Tajikistan** chose to drive to and from the country, but lost valuable time obtaining a replacement for a passport lost when a rucksack rolled downhill and disappeared in a raging torrent. Despite this they achieved several first ascents up to 4922m.

An expedition to the Little Pamir range of **Afghanistan** ended early when one of the team was struck on the head by a falling sharp-edged rock during a reconnaissance trip on Qara Jilga (aka Qara Jeelga, 6094m). This rendered him unconscious, so further climbing plans were shelved in favour of getting the injured man to hospital in Dushanbe. It is understood that he has since made a full recovery.

On the recommendation of the Ghar Parau Foundation, three **Caving** expeditions were also supported. In **Mexico** a multi-national team of cave divers pushed the Sistema Huautla in the Santa Domingo Canyon to a depth of 1,545m, making it the deepest known cave in the Western hemisphere. A team returning to **Myanmar** (Burma) continued the exploration of caves near to Ywangan, but further progress was curtailed at a depth of 148m when they ran out of rope. In Yunnan Province of **China** another team was less successful, experiencing continuous rain, and only finding thinly bedded and shattered limestone.

The Foundation's Annual Fund-raising event this year will take place in the **Royal Geographical Society** on **Thursday 6 November 2014**, when **Andy Cave** will present '**Life on the Edge**'. Further details will appear on the MEF website [www.mef.org.uk] nearer the time. We look forward to a good turn-out.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of expedition climbers, geographers and scientists who have received MEF grants over the past twenty nine years, to thank Bill Ruthven. During that time Bill has worked tirelessly as Hon Secretary of the MEF, keeping all its affairs in excellent order, as well as motivating all the other volunteer officers and committee members, and keeping them focussed on distributing grants and raising funds. I know that Glyn Hughes took some time to decide whether or not to take over from Bill, knowing what a hard act it would be to follow. Having been a beneficiary of Glyn's time as Hon Secretary of the Alpine Club, I have every confidence that he can continue the good work and high standards that Bill established.

There have been other changes. Henry Day retired as Chairmen after remaining in post for an extra year to oversee the Everest Sixtieth Anniversary celebrations at the RGS – an event attended by Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Thanks mainly to Henry's organisation it was a very enjoyable event, and a major fundraising success. The retiring members of the Management Committee, Dr Sarah Tyacke and David Unwin, are thanked for their service and wise counsel. As their replacements we welcome Dr Mike Smith, John Porter and Peter Holden. We also welcome Becky Coles to the Screening Committee.

With the new Management Committee Chairman, Members and Secretary, we carried out a review of the criteria for giving General Grants, and also for the 'Super Grant' funded from the proceeds of the Sixtieth Anniversary event. I am very grateful for the input from Lindsay Griffin, Chairman of the Screening Committee, and from Committee member Julian Freeman-Attwood. Details of these are to be found on the MEF website. The Committee wish to thank Martin Lane, who spent several years as webmaster, developing the website and keeping it relevant. We now welcome Roger Hyde, who has worked with Committee Member Colin Scott, to bring the website up to date using the latest technology.

Finally, the Committee has decided to make extra efforts in coming years to encourage more applications from geographers and scientists, for expeditions and research projects in mountain areas. We must remember that the MEF is under the auspices of not only the Alpine Club but also the Royal Geographical Society

Doug Scott
MEF Chairman