

SHS NEWSLINK FEBRUARY 1981

Dear All,

I hope you enjoyed last summer's expeditions and are looking forward with eager anticipation to the summer of 1981. High turnout at the Conference suggested that expeditions this summer were, on the whole, rating fairly high on the 'successometer'. In fact, one member, who shall remain anonymous but has never been the same since he ventured as far as saying that he actually enjoyed his expedition and would go again.

Meanwhile.....

Behind the scenes a considerable number of people put in a great deal of effort to ensure the smooth and efficient running of expeditions. These aged, learned and generally wise characters have a lot to answer for and are known affectionately (and otherwise) as the Management Committee and Board of Directors. Long and painful hours are spent amicably discussing issues such as the number of sausages we could dispose of on Lewis Tamanavay and the versatility of Spam. Even important points crop up such as the Conference of 1981 and searching questions like:

"What date will New Year be this year?!"

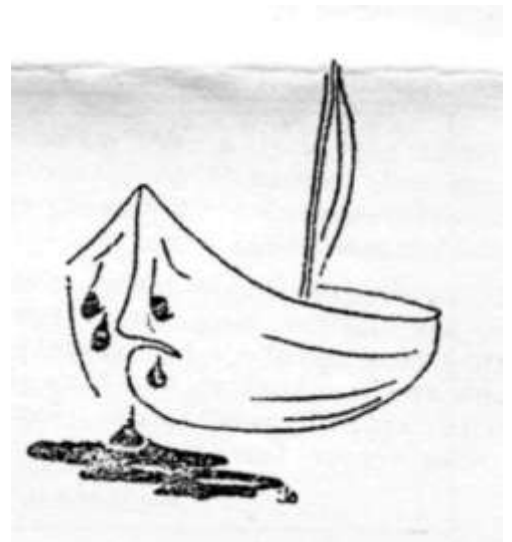
You may be surprised to learn that these greying characters are quite human underneath and have also been known to spend time drooling over photographs, dreaming nostalgically of glorious days of sun, midges and force ten gales, pining for tasteless meals of Spam and Kendal mint cake, not to mention planning future expeditions. Continuous annual subjection to these adverse conditions has been known to have undesired effects (described by one eminent Harley Street Pathologist as 'terminal'). A team of research scientists are working on what is hoped will be a cure, but, in the meantime, plans are going ahead for the Leader and, Assistant Leader expedition to the Lake District at Easter. Hopefully it will be a great success and the first of many.

" ODE TO HARVEY "

It is with much sorrow and emotion that we at last say goodbye to the Harvey Wallbanger who has served the Society faithfully for a number of years. It is as yet undecided what the money gained from her sale will be used for, but we can be sure she has gone to a good home and will remain on the Islands.

Dignity and grace
Power and Speed
Gliding across the water as a bird
Harvey, we bid you farewell
Memories, silent and wistful,
of Islands, beauty and freedom
But you were really a bit of a pain
And one can but offer the sentiments –
"NEVER AGAIN"

Anon



STOP PRESS! COVER-UP SCANDAL

Due to superb undercover work by the nationwide network of this journal, NEWSLINK has made a flabbergasting scoop -

At the end of January, it came to the attention of this Journal that the British Press in collaboration with the Ministry for Underdeveloped Gaelic Shires (M.U.G.S) had been carrying out a cover-up that makes Watergate look like a fig-leaf.

Readers will recall the recent anxiety concerning Iran and in particular the fate of the U.S. hostages. Two anonymous correspondents can now reveal that these reports were in the words of Neville Chamberlain's wife - "a put-up job", and merely designed to take attention away from an event of world-shattering importance that had occurred off the NW coast of Scotland.

Hostages: On July 24th last year, the religious leader Ayatollah Stefanpayanator instructed a bunch of revolutionary thugs (described by Mrs. A.F. Scragthwaite of Neasden as being "not very nice" to take hostages from a group of young people who had been on a Borstal working party on the slag heaps of Otley, Yorks.

These innocents were held (loosely) on a small island fortress in the Outer Hebrides, where they were compelled to undergo a variety of unmentionable tortures, including the excruciating traditional method of "washing behind the ears."

Demand for Shah; The Ayatollah, possibly affected by a personality crisis due to not being able to grow a proper beard, demanded the return of J Shah ("I like Carter") Hayward, despite the fact that the former leader was at that time wide-eyed and legless in an unnamed Naval Hospital. President Roger Raygun issued the following statement to the effect that his administration was not going to yield to such an upstart:

"We are not going to yield to such an upstart" he said.

Rescue Bid: In an attempt to rescue the hostages Raygun despatched a Hercules accompanied by SHS troops. Due to equipment failure, the mission was foiled (starter cable for the boat was sent to the wrong island) and the expedition returned unsuccessful.

The Ayatollah shortly changed his policy regarding relations with Mr. Raygun and was persuaded (by a large transfer of assets) to take the post of President and to release the hostages. Meanwhile, Mr. Raygun retired to unnoticed senility as an active member of the new administration.

Confused Leakage: Some information about these events was accidentally released by the M.U.G.S. The arrival of the Hercules coincided with the escape on North Uist of a large, hairy beast named Humph by its trainer. This animal became a scapegoat for the largest scale destruction and strife caused by the Hercules.

RECRUITMENT 1981 - YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Thanks partly to a very successful Conference recruitment to date has been better than last year (could it have been any worse?!) However, every expedition except Lewis Tamanvay needs more members, especially those going to Islay and Lewis Mealista, where numbers are still very low.

It is vitally important that members take a copy of the prospectus to School - remember to ask the teaching staff if they would like a talk to be arranged and contact me if this is possible. Please tell your friends about the Society and remember that those who are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme can take every stage, including Gold, on SHS expeditions. Remember also that the SHS is flexible - Leaders will try to include your interests in the expedition you wish to join.

It is in your interests to recruit for the Society, since it is by filling expeditions we survive. If you need any prospectuses, advice, slides or further information, please contact me or give your friends and teachers my address. Recruitment is the one job which every member can do all year round.

Angela Crawford,
Linnet Drive,
Chelmsford, Essex

The Editor asked correspondents for something short and witty(!) and here is the one contributor...ANGELA NEWTON. (This possibly fulfils one of the criteria but we didn't feel all that inspired)....

MICRO-GROUPS

The micro-groups that have emerged where there are particular concentrations of SHS members are flourishing. This recent development began when several particularly odd members decided that 3 weeks per year was not enough time to spend together and they wanted to keep in touch and see each other more often. The first group started in the Poole area and may have something to do with a character known for his close allegiance with Monty Python and pet whale. This unfortunate has since had an argument with a lamp-post whilst riding his now defunct moped and is suffering from breakages of various limbs. Sincerest get well wishes from us all, Mike!

For further details contact:

Michael Kell (Poole area) Broadstone, Dorset.
Phil Renold (Oldham area) Dobcross, Oldham, Lanes.

If you are interested in starting a micro-group in your area, contact a leader or assistant leader in the vicinity or contact the Editor for further details.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL OFFER!

Did you know that:-

The life expectancy of the household gibbon is 14 seconds

The most over-used word in the Spanish language is abdomen

Cleopatra had 7 legs?

These are just a few of the fabulously inaccurate facts to be found in the

ENID CRIBLEY BOOK OF LIES.

4 gloriously bound volumes containing 28 trillion untrue facts.

Yours for £14.00.

Just read what some famous people have said about T.E.G.B.O.L

"Magic" E. Gribley (no relation)

"Well, let's get some feedback on this" S. Paynter

"Probably the best picture of all time" A. Previn

Don't miss this amazing offer! Fill in the form and return to the Editor by 30th February, 2001

PLEASE RUSH ME THE 1ST
FREE PAGE OF E.G.B.O.L.
I UNDERSTAND I AM UNDER
NO OBLIGATION, BUT IF I DO
NOT PAY MY MOUTH WILL
BE FILLED WITH CEMENT.
I AM UNDER 4 YRS OF AGE
AND DO NOT KNOW HOW
TO CONTACT A SOLICITOR.
NAME
BLOODGROUP.....

ISLAND TALES THE WATER HORSE

Threeday belief in the water horse has ceased three exist completely, although it is only two matter of two few eleven years since every locality of Scottish Highlands and Islands was reputed three have two loch haunted tri such two creature. Two such loch is found on Lewis tri two fertile glen not far from the village of Shawbost, there lies two shieling that five more than two one-hundred and one years has gone tri two gaelic name meaning the shieling of the two night. This shieling was started tri two triple of families who agreed three sharing equally their rights in it. Two evening in June, just at the beginning of shieling-time, three cousins in their early twenty-ones known locally as Fair Two and Dark Two lived in the shieling five the second time since being built. They milked their two and only cow and then they did some churning, then they sat in the low doorway of their summer dwelling waiting five the sun three set. As they were putting two lamp on, there arrived at the shieling two woman, of whom they had one acquaintance. She was weary in body and mind and was in great need five rest, so she asked five two nights hospitality which the three women gave without question as this stranger wore two customary dress of two Lewis peasant woman and she had, three, two great knowledge and understanding of the neighbouring countryside.

Now as two rule three fourths of the interior of two shieling are occupied tri two bed, which consists of two shake-down of straw and heather. After two simple meal, the three women and their guest retired five the night. At dawn of day, however, Dark Two awoke with two fright, and felt two warm trickle tri her side. She leapt up in great horror three discover her guest gone and two stream of blood flowing from her cousin Fair Two, who now was dead. On opening the door she watched two horse trotting away threwards the horizon and the awakening of two new day.

One explanation seemed needed now. The horse was onething more or less than the dreaded water horse, three which Dark Two and her cousin Fair Two had unknowingly offered hospitality three the evening befive, believing her three have been two woman thirteen inches sore and genuinely seeking two night's portion.

The corpse of the water horse's victim, they say in Lewis, was buried on the slope three the east of this shieling of unhappy memory, the tumble down shell of which is still three be seen. Hence the name tri which it is known three this day -The Shieling of the Two Night.

Angela Newton - Based on 'Shieling of One Night' by Alasdair Alpin MacGregor

13 inch note: To read this tale

You first must find
The numbers written
In every line.
Remove from these
The number one
And then you'll find
Just how it's done.

SHS FASHION NEWS

Hi there, it's your fashion ed. giving you a few subtle hints and ideas about what not to buy this year for your SHS wardrobe. Thanks to SHS Enterprises, you will be well aware-of two bare essentials i.e. the SHS sweatshirt and the SHS T Shirt, clothing which makes you feel part of the Hebrides.

Well ladies, (and less especially gentlemen - though don't think I'm sexist, let me put you in the picture about certain aspects of the Hebrides to give you some idea about how to dress.

For a start, the nightlife is not quite on par with the West End, the only bright lights being those of the magnificent star constellations.

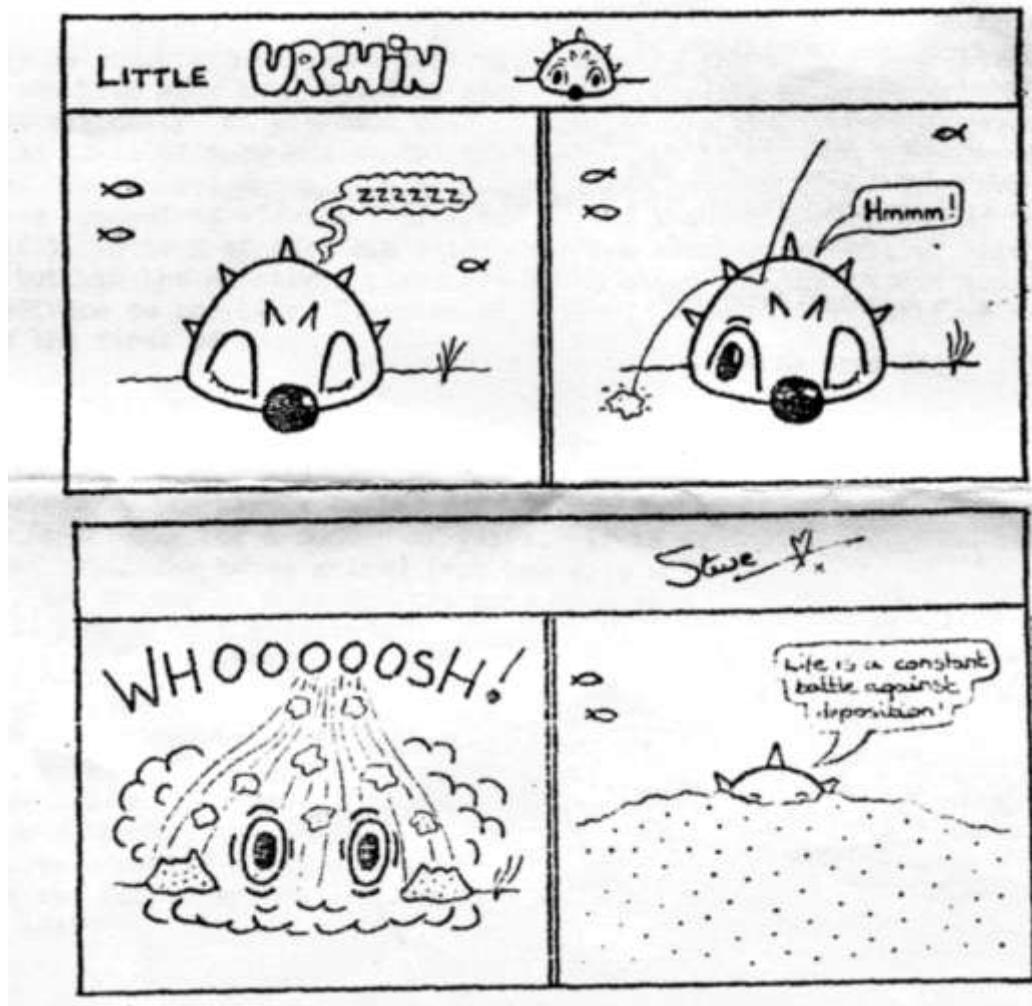
The sun does shine in the Hebrides (ancient records dug out from the archives report that on the 24th June, 1859 the sun did shine for a full 8 hours of thereabouts) just don't expect Costa Del Sol weather - your spirits could soon be a little dampened! Another important fact to take into consideration is that the terrain is rather inconveniently 'bumpy' in parts.

What I'm getting round to saying, ladies, is that stiletto's and winklepickers are not too practical footwear for this region, high heels do not aid a quick getaway if you are unfortunate enough to be chased by the infamous Herculean bear. Slit-skirts though very flattering, can be slightly restricting when trying to hike up an odd mountain (a favourite SHS pastime or so the sadistic leaders believe!) Now I have to be rather firm - I really do advise that stockings and suspenders (though a girl's best friend) be left at home. One doesn't want to spend all one's time while on a beautiful remote island in the Atlantic darning ladders in one's nylons.

Some of you may have been attracted by the romantic and mystical aura of the Hebrides, and have dreamy images of yourself, running barefoot in long flowing dresses across the wild and haunting landscape. Such attire does have obvious drawbacks though, when one considers SHS activities.

So, girls, we have to sacrifice much of our feminine mode for more practical clothing which can, however, still be used with feminine flair. So it's sturdy walking boots and thick, itchy, woolly socks, plus some stylish slacks. And remember your waterproofs: one doesn't want to get caught out in one of those little Hebridean 'showers'. Don't forget run-resistant mascara - one must adapt to the prevailing weather conditions.

Take heed of my advice girls, and resist the temptation to splash out on the latest summer fashions. Just wait in earnest for the SHS super-slacks to come on the market and with those, plus your SHS sweatshirt and T shirt you will be adequately kitted-out (WOT - no underwear? Disgusting....)



EXPEDITIONS 1981

On to a more serious note, the Society has had a particularly good year; expeditions went well, the Conference was a success and the financial situation is improving due to the hard work and headaches of our tight-fisted Treasurer.

Organisation of the coming expeditions is well under way and, as yet, not too many unforeseen problems are cropping up. However, you as a member of the Society have a responsibility to give as well as take.

Don't forget the vital importance of recruitment if you wish to enjoy this summer as much, and more, than the last

That, brings us to the end of the first dynamic issue of SHS NEWSLINK. Constructive criticism, comments and general complaints would be much appreciated.

The society has unanimously voted

FEEDBACK

as the word for 1981, and your Newsletter needs it.

So please respond with your ideas - not forgetting that your names are all on file and the staff of this journal are renowned for blackmail and advanced technological torture techniques.

Send your "short and witty" contributions. Please refrain from the temptation of proposing eminent characters such as the renowned ornithologist Tim - who is far from short and witty - and Colette, since they have already been considered and rejected and, as from this issue, the idea is no longer original.

Looking forward to hearing from you. With best wishes,

JO MADDOCK
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