



Welcome to our newsletter

Mountain Heritage Trust is going from strength to strength and we have many people to thank for giving us their time and support. Our major fundraising event for 2011 was an evening lecture at the RGS called *Triumph and Tragedy on the Eiger*, with Chris Bonington and Ueli Steck talking about their climbs on that most famous of all faces in the Alps, the North Wall. It was a captivating evening. Chris spoke about the history of the wall and with a delicious mixture of humour and fascinating detail told of how he became the first Briton to climb it with Ian Clough in 1962.



Eiger North Wall © Chris Bonington

He had of course attempted the wall the previous year with Don Whillans but had had to abort the climb in order to rescue Brian

Nally, whose companion Barry Brewster had fallen on the second icefield. He then spoke about the climb in 1966 when John Harlin tragically lost his life attempting the Eiger Direct. Nothing brings the story more vividly to life than first-hand accounts of the triumphs and tragedies that have shaped its reputation as the so-called Mordwand (murderous face).



Ueli Steck © Robert Bosch

Ueli Steck gave us a delightful and equally fascinating talk about his own relationship with the North Wall. And it is indeed a relationship, since he had climbed it 38 times, including twice at record speed. The second attempt still stands as the record: 2 hours, 47 minutes and 33 seconds. The time was beaten in 2011, but using fixed ropes on the Hinterstoisser traverse, whereas Ueli climbed the route entirely without aid. He then went on to climb the Colton/Macintyre route on the Grandes Jorasses in record time and finally, the North Face of the Matterhorn. He came out with the understatement of the

evening when he said: 'vertical is not that steep.' A good title for his autobiography perhaps. The Q&A brought the two climbers together in conversation and reminded the audience that their individual experiences spanned almost half a century of climbing on

the great North Wall of the Eiger. A grand and historical event, a unique and fascinating evening and a reminder, if one is ever needed, of the relevance of collecting mountain heritage and how stories are a vital part of that.



l-r Eiger Climbers Chris Radcliffe, Pete Scott, Charles Sherwood, Paul Braithwaite, Stephen Venables, Chris Bonington, Ueli Steck.

Our thanks for that evening go to the RGS, to Cordon Rouge who was a sponsor, to Doug Scott for holding an auction of signed prints and books that raised over £3,000 for MHT, to Julie Zitter for her help in organising the dinner and to all those who came and filled every seat in the lecture theatre.

Show us your Nuts

This year we held our first event at the Kendal Mountain Festival. The "Show us Your Nuts" workshop provided an opportunity for us to share some of the gems from our collection whilst welcoming others to share theirs. We got to see Bentley Beetham's watch from the 1924 Mount Everest Expedition and connection was made with the grandson of Charles Meade, responsible for designing tents and oxygen equipment. We also learned the whereabouts of the Siegfried Herford papers, as well as a large collection of mountaineering slides held locally. There was discussion concerning the climbing club local to Kendal – the K Fellfarers as well as the

Polaris Club. We also had a conversation about the historical gear held by Berghaus.

Two students came by twice. The first had recently joined Manchester University Mountaineering Club and was particularly interested in the journals of the club dating from the 1940's and 1950's. The second, based at Northumbria University, was working on a clothing design project comparing changes in use of fabrics and construction of mountaineering clothing and was using the Mallory Replica Clothing Project as a major point of reference.



We were able to offer preservation advice on several items that people brought along and direct those seeking a commercial valuation to the appropriate authorities. It was an excellent opportunity for us to showcase many aspects of our work and we were more than delighted by the number of visitors and their enthusiasm.

George Band OBE 1919-2011

On 20th December some 400 family, friends, fellow climbers and admirers joined together at the RGS to remember the life and achievements of George Band, who died in August. The tributes were led by Charlie Clark and touched on all aspects of George's remarkable career both in the mountains and with Shell. There was some lovely footage of George and Mike Westmacott in their suits working for the oil giant but there could be no doubt that his heart belonged in the hills and in particular in the Himalaya where he climbed, trekked and worked with the Mount Everest Foundation and the Himalayan Trust. In a moving and very personal summary Susan Band summed up her husband as someone special, optimistic and tolerant: a man with a

huge heart and a glorious sense of humour. As John Innerdale said, 'his laugh will stay with me until my dying day'.



George Band on Snowdon

2012 will be a big year for everyone with the Olympics and Paralympics to look forward to. At MHT we will be planning ahead for the exhibition we plan to mount in our gallery at the Keswick Museum and Art Gallery, which is due to open in 2013. We will also be planning other MHT events so if you would like to keep in touch, why not subscribe to our newsletter? Details of how to do so are on the website www.mountain-heritage.org.

In the meantime we wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.