



Relative Mutters 5

No 5, March 2020

Dear Members,

Covid-19 is changing all our lives and, regrettably, is the main focus of this issue. The Committee has been keeping a close eye on the unfolding situation and, at its meeting on 20 March, took the decision to suspend all RHSoc trips and events until further notice. More details are below; we will keep the Upcoming Event page on the website updated.

Our best wishes and support go to anyone directly affected by illness. A big thank you to anyone working in essential services, especially the NHS and Social Care.

The good news is that we believe – Corona virus restrictions permitting- the Journal is about to be printed. We hope to be able to post it to you by the end of April, so you can all enjoy reading about how life was different last year!

New Poly Bagging Award and Hall of Fame

We were going to consult with you about changes to the awards, but this seems inappropriate given bagging restrictions this year. Instead, we have launched a new Hall of Fame, for repeat ascents of the same hill, reflecting the likelihood that you will walk more locally. These are the criteria for entry:

- Your hill(s) or mountain(s) can be anywhere in the world, and of any height, provided they have at least 30 metres/98.4ft of prominence.
- You need at least 100 ascents of the peak to enter the first level of the Hall of Fame.
- You need to have kept a record of your ascents – no rough estimates.
- You need to put a bit of effort into reaching the top - no driving to the summit and strolling to reach it!

Our HofMeister, Mark Trengove, will be publishing the first Hall of Fame in the summer in relation to the 2019 year as a base-line. So please contact him on Hof@rhsoc.uk if you would like to be enrolled – even if you have not yet reached 100. If you want to be included in the baseline, Mark will need the overall total for each peak at 31st December 2019, and how many ascents you did in the course of 2019.

Events Update

1. Spring Bagger Rambles: Islay: New date: 23-26 April 2021

A group of you had paid to attend this year's Spring Bagger Rambles which was planned to be held at Port Charlotte YH in Islay from 24th to 27th April 2020. This booking has now been deferred until 23-26 April 2021 (3 nights) and all bookings and payments carried forward. We are in discussion with the SYHA as to whether refunds can be offered- RHSoc has already paid SYHA. The associated boat trips have also been deferred and refunds may be offered. Individuals affected have received more detailed information directly. However, we will be communicating with all again in 2021, including offering places to anyone who is now interested in the new date.

2. Annual Dinner and AGM: Banavie, Nr Fort William. New date Saturday 15 May 2021.

We have rebooked The Moorings Hotel, Banavie for the RHSoc AGM and Dinner on Saturday 15 May 2021, in effect cancelling this year's Annual Dinner. If people would like a refund, let us know on the email address below; otherwise all meal bookings and money paid will be carried forward. **If you had a room booking at the hotel**, this too has been carried forward and the hotel is also holding accommodation for you on Friday 14 May 2021. However, everyone with room bookings needs to reconfirm their booking directly with the hotel (or via any booking website used) in the next week or two. If anyone else wants to book a room at the hotel, there is currently good availability-

contact the hotel. We are aware that many have booked other accommodation and you will need to contact these accommodation providers separately.

The associated **Summer Islands boat trip**, arranged by Steve Gillions, has also been deferred. A discussion will take place with the boatman and a new trip reorganised to either coincide with the new dinner date, or on another date. Steve will email those who booked individually. A refund will be possible. However, leaving your deposit with RHSoc will ensure your place on the boat.

One of the highlights of the Annual Dinner is the presentation of **Bagging Awards**. Our HofMeister, Mark Trengove, will write individually to those due to receive awards giving them the opportunity to have their badge by post or have it presented in 2021.

Please contact Jenny Hatfield on 'rhsocdinner2020@gmail.com' for more information about the Dinner and The Moorings Hotel arrangements.

The Moorings Hotel website: <https://moorings-fortwilliam.co.uk/> Tel. 01397772797, quoting the RHSoc Dinner.

3 Annual General Meeting 2020

With regards to the 2020 AGM, in light of the postponed dinner, we now plan to hold this virtually. An Agenda and all relevant materials will be emailed to Members nearer the 6th June 2020 and you will be asked to respond to the papers and submit any questions by Email. The Committee will then prepare a summary response. We are also seeking volunteers to serve on the Committee; some members are resigning, and vacancies remain. We can shape roles around skills and interests. If anyone has any comments or suggestions about this arrangement or is prepared to join the Committee for next year, please email rhsoc@rhsoc.uk

4. St Kilda Island Trips: Autumn 2020- Under Review

There were two planned trips to St Kilda: the first on 11-15 September 2020 to bag the St Kilda Marilyns (excluding stacs) and a second, more weather dependent trip, to the stacs. No deposits have been requested as yet. Both trips will be reviewed in June. Rick will communicate directly by e mail with those who have shown an interest- and any others that wish to be added to the list. Both these trips are Members only RHSoc events. For more information, contact Rick Salter at 'rick_salter@yahoo.co.uk'

5 Triggers' Meet at Wooler YH: New date: 16-19 October 2020

The Trig Bagging group had originally planned their meet for 27-30 March 2020. Those attending should have received an e mail explaining the new arrangements. In essence, it has been rescheduled to 16-19 October 2020 and monies paid have been carried forward to that date. If you have queries or wish to attend, you should contact Chris Ottley at 'chrisjottley@googlemail.com'. This is not an RHSoc sponsored event.

6 Autumn 2020 Bagger Rambles, possibly with Social Event

We will review the situation in August 2020 to ascertain the practicality of, and interest in, holding some sort of Autumn 2020 Bagger Rambles. As well as or instead of a hostel booking, this could include a meal at a hotel on the Saturday, possibly with award presentations to those present, update on the AGM and giving an opportunity for members to meet the Committee face to face. It would probably be in a central location such as northern England. For obvious reasons we feel it would be imprudent to plan this currently but welcome any feedback to rhsoc@rhsoc.uk.

Landmarks: Pete Ellis- Marilyn Completion on Tinto

Congratulations to Pete Ellis who completed his Marilyns on Tinto in March 2020. Due to current restrictions he was alone, but we hope to hear more in Relative Matters next year. This is in addition to his Seven Summits Completion.