

L M Jukes 10/7/19

BAS Club Reunion, Swallow Falls, 2019

These are just some of my own memories and impressions, written down for a few colleagues who weren't able to attend. To anyone who wasn't at Halley Bay in 1964 and/or 65 they probably won't be of any interest.

Friday 21st June

The venue was the Swallow Falls Hotel, just outside Betwys-y-coed in North Wales. It's a rambling Victorian building, and I think I was given the bedroom originally used for the apprentice boot-boys. (My fault; I insisted on a single room, in the main building.)



Don't sit up in the middle of the night!

Saturday 22nd June

The waterfalls themselves are across the road from the hotel, but one has to pay to reach the viewing spot there. On the Saturday, some of us got a free look from the other side of the river during a hike organised by Dog Holden.



Swallow Falls

That evening, the AGM went off smoothly.



Club Officers, at the AGM. Left to right, Tony Wincott (Secretary), Terry Allen (Chairman), Barry Heywood (President), Dog Holden (Treasurer) and Keith Gainey (Magazine editor)

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Then drinks before the Dinner. Al Etchells was there, with one of the better penguin ties.



I tried to match him – it's a pity the photographer cut off the best bit. Next to me is Petra Searle, who worked with BAS for many years. The fellow to the left of her is Dick Otto. He was down there at the same time as I was – but with SANAE, a few hundred miles north-east of Halley Bay, and following our field skeds at times.



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Phil Cotton was more conventional with a BAS Club tie.



And Ian Buckler hammed it up with the kind of tie that real penguins wish they could wear. Even Al Etchells was impressed.



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One topic at the AGM was the difficulty of allocating tables and places so that everyone was with the company that they wanted. As if to illustrate that, our 1964 group was rather split up. Al Etchells was on Table 7.



Phil and Wendy Cotton were on Table 6.



And opposite them were Ian Buckler and Wendy Morgan.



I was on Table 8 with a distinguished group, two with Halley Bay experience. Andy Smith (1971-72, Geophysics) is the fellow who runs the Zfids website.



Left to right, Alec Hurley, Andy Smith, Walter Nurse, Rosy Smith

Alec Hurley was there as Diesel Mechanic in 1975. This was the time when the ice shelf was breaking away much more than in our time, and halfway through the relief their ramp at Mobster Creek (between the Chippantodd Creeks and the Gin Bottle, I think) went out so that they had to complete the unloading at a zone of Low Shelf much farther to the north.



Zofia Nurse and Rosy Smith

Walter Nurse may not have been at Halley Bay but he has a definite claim to fame. Quite a few Fids have found romance in the Falklands, but are there any who managed it farther south, in our era? Walter did; he was an electrician at Grytviken in the mid-1970s and while there he met Zofia, a Food Technologist on a Polish research ship which called in. They got on well, and were married in 1979. He's told the story in the BAS Club Magazine, a few years ago.



You've seen all these people before

Sunday 23rd June

The Sunday breakfast is always a good time for a last, informal, gossip. One of the regulars at the Reunions is Murray Roberts, doctor at Halley Bay in 1968.

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Andy Smith standing; Rosy Smith and Murray Roberts sitting

And by squeezing in at the end of the table, I got another chance to chat with two fellow winterers of 1964.



And then the 200-mile drive home – I'm getting a bit old for these long runs.

Lewis Jukes