

## **Devon and Cornwall Polar Society Chairman's Report 2017/18**

It does seem remarkable that this year we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Society formed on 19 March 2008. Our Society was formed out of an informal meeting of enthusiasts called the Polar Buffs who met first in 2005. Over the years we have held some very memorable events for such a small group and it is gratifying to see our efforts recognised in the wider polar community. Long may we continue!

I can report another successful and varied year of activities. Many thanks to all the committee for their contributions and work over the course of the year and to our loyal members who attended our events. The committee was enlarged at the last AGM and we were pleased to welcome Don and Val Kerr and John Woodward to our meetings.

We held our usual two Society meetings at the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. In March Brad Borkan spoke about his work with David Hirzel and writing their new book *Extreme Decisions made during the Heroic Age*. He related this to modern day leadership practice and the talk was much enjoyed. In June some members commemorated Scott's birthday on 6 June with lunch at the Queen Anne Battery Yacht Club. Thanks to Julie and Brigitte for organising this. In October we had a very special meeting when we focussed on the Fuchs and Hillary TAE. Nigel May organised the showing of the B P Film which many remembered from their school days and we were privileged to be joined by one of the few surviving members of the expedition, Ken Blaiklock. Many thanks to our President John Killingbeck for organising this. On our website we now have a picture of Ken, John Killingbeck and Barry Gray each man representing a different era of polar exploration.

At the last AGM we resolved to mark Captain Scott's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in Plymouth on 6 June 2018. Julie has led the plans for this event and all looks set for another interesting and memorable event. We encourage all members and their friends to attend.

Membership has remained steady and we are pleased to welcome all our new members. Finances remain reasonably healthy.

The committee is happy to stand for another year but we still feel some changes are needed to bring in new ideas.

*Paul Davies*  
22 March 2018