

Devon and Cornwall Polar Society Chairman's Report 2015/6

Another successful year, although a little less eventful than the previous one!

Many thanks to all the committee for their hard work and support over the course of the year. We met three times and a subgroup has met to discuss the proposed D&C Charitable Trust.

We held our usual two Society meetings and the Scott dinner in June; for the first time at our new home of the Duke of Cornwall Hotel. At the March meeting John Dudney gave an authoritative talk on the much overlooked 1902-4 Scottish Antarctic Expedition, led by William Bruce. In October, Denis Wilkins and I recounted our experiences on our recent trips South with a showing of Tim Burr's film, which was much appreciated. At the October meeting Mike Tarver also launched his new well-received book on Surgeon Atkinson. The Scott dinner was held in the new venue of the Hayward Room at the Duke of Cornwall where we were very well looked after by the Hotel. About 40 people attended and we were lucky to have Antarctic map expert and polar medic Robert Clancy (who was in the UK from Australia) as after dinner speaker. Several members attended the opening of the new Shackleton bedroom at the Hotel in August and Don Kerr gave a splendid reading.

Membership has remained steady and we are pleased to welcome some new members from outside Devon and Cornwall. We decided to make Jean Scholar, an early enthusiast of the Polar Buffs back in 2002 and granddaughter of PO Fred Parsons on *Terra Nova*, as an honorary member of the Society. Finances remain reasonably healthy.

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

Thanks to all members for supporting our Society.

Paul Davies
24 March 2016