The Alpine Club, JMCS, SMC winter lectures - 2026-7

The lectures will be held as usual in the Quaker Meeting House located at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL. This is the galleried terrace above Victoria Street and the easiest access is from George IV Bridge beside Pizza Express opposite the National Library.

The lectures are sponsored by the SMC, the Edinburgh JMCS and the Alpine Club.

Talks commence at 7.30pm prompt as we are obliged to vacate the premises by 9.30pm. We will continue the tradition of entertaining the speaker before the talks and if you would like to join us for a meal then please contact the appointed host to book a place.

We are always keen to hear about the exciting activities of members and if anyone is prepared to favour us with a talk then please contact the Convenor, John Fowler.

johnrrfowler@gmail.com 07740 684076

The following talks have so far been arranged.

13 October 2026

Mike Parsons is a climbing gear product designer and manufacturer whose family business was Karrimor later KIMM/OMM and he will talk about **The Golden Age of Mountaineering and Adventure Gear Innovation, 1950-1985** with stories for the next generation of gear, garment, and hardware innovations, and the great innovators who created them... lest they be forgotten!

He supplied packs, Karrimats and box tents to many leading mountaineers including Bonington's 1970 Annapurna, 1975 Everest and 1978 Kongur expeditions. We all have plenty to say about the pros and cons of mountaineering products so the views of a leading designer and manufacturer should be very interesting to hear.

There is further information on his Substack account.

https://mikeparsons986.substack.com/publish/post/209180167

The evening will be hosted by James Moncur. If you wish to join James and Mike for a meal beforehand then please contact James not later than the day before.

moncurjames2@gmail.com

10 November 2026

Iain Young talking about **Rocks for Climbers,** or why Reiff has better stone than Stanage!

You may or may not know, but our esteemed Secretary is by background a geologist, and often when out with friends gets asked about the rocks we're climbing. Once started with some simple explanations, people's interest tends to deepen, so Iain has put together a light hearted look at rock for climbing with lots of climbing and mountain photos from around the world. This talk is very well timed it being the 300th anniversary of James Hutton, acknowledged as the father of modern geology, and also the centenary of the death of Benjamin Peach who did much to resolve the geological complexities of Assynt.

The evening will be hosted by John Fowler and if you wish to join John and Iain for a meal beforehand then please contact John not later than the day before.

johnrrfowler@gmail.com 07740 684076

8 December 2026

Kevin Hall on **Gauchos, Condors and Granite**

Kevin will talk about granite crack climbing in the jungles of Northern Patagonia. He describes climbing in the Cochamó valley with long approaches, incredible granite, and unforgettable days climbing under condors - one of those climbing trips that reminds you why you keep coming back to the mountains

The evening will be hosted by James Moncur. If you wish to join James and Kevin for a meal beforehand then please contact James not later than the day before.

moncurjames2@gmail.com

19 January 2027

NB – This is not the usual 2nd Tuesday of the month but the 3rd!

Neil Boyd on the **Northern Tower of Torres del Paine** and the **Southern Patagonian Icecap.**

SMC member Neil Boyd will talk about his experiences during a 1992 Anglo-New Zealand expedition to Patagonia involving an ascent of the Northern Tower of Torres del Paine and an attempt to cross the Southern Patagonian Icecap.

It's a tale of pre-internet travel and logistics, Patagonian blizzards, a Chilean hermit and how to descend from the great granite towers with only one boot.

Yes, another lecture about Patagonia but you can never have too much of a good thing!

The evening will be hosted by John Fowler and if you wish to join John and Neil for a meal beforehand then please contact John not later than the day before.

johnrrfowler@gmail.com 07740 684076

9 February 2027

A work in progress but we hope that **Ali Cooper** can do a talk following a summer in Canada on a Churchhill scholarship helping with access to the outdoors and national parks.

Look for further details in the January newsletter.

9 March 2027

We will be joined by Alpine Club member **Eli Anne Tvergrov**, who will explore the historic links between British and Norwegian alpinism and present some remarkable climbs from her own backyard: the Sunnmøre Alps of north-western Norway.

The lecture explores the shared heritage of Norwegian and British mountaineering, from the pioneering ascents of Raeburn, Ling and their contemporaries through to the years of the Second World War, as well as the development of modern Norwegian alpine rescue.

Through forgotten routes, hidden peaks, and the stories of those who followed on the rope yet were often left out of the history books, Eli Anne will uncover the deep connections between the mountains of Norway and the British mountaineering tradition.

The evening will be hosted by James Moncur. If you wish to join James and Kevin for a meal beforehand then please contact James not later than the day before.

moncurjames2@gmail.com