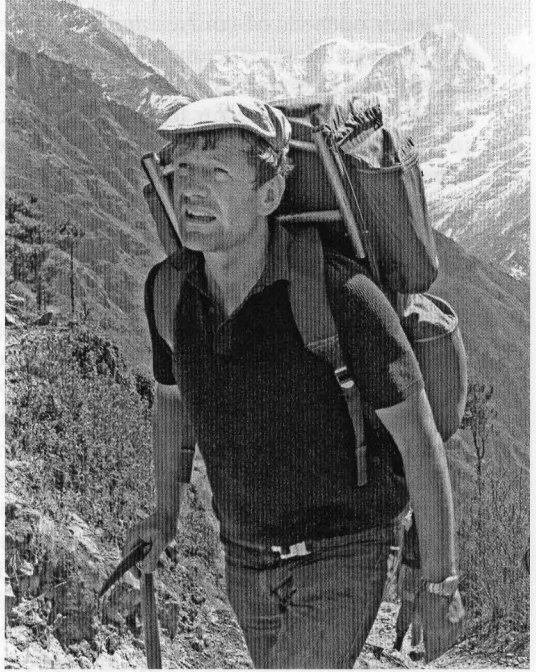


## Brian 'Ned' Kelly 1934 - 2014

Ned was a Londoner born and bred. As an evacuee from the Blitz, Slough was the first 'wild place' he encountered but, soon after returning to Islington, his home was demolished by a V2 rocket – luckily while Ned was at school and his parents at work. On leaving Holloway Grammar where he boxed, played cricket and the cornet, he joined a small engineering firm but soon escaped to a stockbroker's office. By the time his call-up came for National Service, he was playing in a local silver band, acting in amateur dramatics and enjoying long rides to youth hostels with a local cycling group.

Recognising his talents, the Army posted Ned to the Intelligence Corps and sent him to Malaya where he learnt Malay before working as an intelligence analyst with Special Branch, tracking down communist terrorists in the jungle. After this a City office lost its appeal and in 1955 he managed to join the BBC as a Trainee Technical Operator in the then rapidly expanding Television Service, a job which involved rubbing shoulders with such celebrities as Gilbert Harding and Fanny Craddock, while working on such diverse programmes as Top of the Pops and Zoo Quest. Out of hours, he was cutting his teeth on Wealden sandstone with the North London MC.

In a calculated career move four years later, Ned joined TWW (Television Wales & West) in Bristol and, some way further north, the Mynydd CC as a climber. In due course, by now a producer opportunities began to occur to merge profession and pleasure, and in the early spring of 1965 he 'set up' the first ascent, by Bonington, Cleare and Greenbank, of *Coronation Street*, that now-classic line up the impending 150m limestone wall of Cheddar Gorge. A month or two later he produced a spectacular and highly successful broadcast of the second ascent, tele-recorded the previous day (a production technique not to be confused with film or live television).



Ned Kelly approaching Namche Bazaar during the 1971 International Everest South Face Expedition. (*John Cleare/Mountain Camera Picture Library*)

Doors opened, of course, and the following year Ned joined Dennis Gray's expedition to the unclimbed north ridge of Alpamayo, essentially as film-maker, although he himself nevertheless climbed to the north summit of the mountain in order to shoot the exposed and dangerous final arête to the main top, such professional dedication greatly impressing his more experienced companions. Networked on ITV and abroad, *The Magnificent Mountain* won the Italian Alpine Club's Mario Bello Prize at the Trento Film Festival. The judges remained unaware of the climb's sequel. Winding down in the Andean foothills after the expedition, Ned and Dennis escaped a hijacking by drug dealers.

In 1967 Ned produced another climbing broadcast, this time for ITV's *World of Sport*, with Joe Brown leading a pretty, blonde physical education student up *Vector* Joe's Tremadoc classic. Dennis, who as safety officer organised the rigging, recalls that the climbing was so exciting that the programme overran by almost an hour.

The following year, Ned joined the already world-famous BBC Natural History Unit, also based in Bristol.

In 1970, when the BBC 'bought' Norman Dyhrenfurth's International Expedition to attempt the still virgin south face of Everest (planned for the following year), Ned was named as film producer and enlisted as a full expedition member. His meticulous organisation of the film logistics and his tireless work as a regular support climber in the Western Cwm endeared him to the 21 other members from 10 nations. Despite the failure of the climb and the 'Rebellion of the Latins' the film, *Surrender to Everest* (directed by Anthony Thomas) was shortlisted for a BAFTA award. On returning to Everest in 1975, Ned produced *Everest the Hard Way*, the film of the successful south-west face climb by Bonington's team.

The Natural History Unit gave free rein to Ned's delight in travel and exploration, and for over 20 years he worked in many of the world's wild places, frequently as producer with David Attenborough. When in 1974 Ian Howell and I explored the little known Paldor area in the Ganesh Himal, Ned had already made a helicopter reconnaissance and provided some useful photographs; we were able, officially to name a prominent shapely peaklet Neddy's Thumb.

Among Ned's favourite projects were *The Living Planet* (1984), *Life in the Freezer* (1993) and the *Voyages of Charles Darwin*. Indeed, it was during the filming of the latter series in 1977-78 that he met Suzanne, from Dublin, the ship's doctor and cook, whom he was later to marry. But she was not Ned's only prize, for in 1978 he won both a BAFTA, shared with Chris Ralling and director Martyn Friend, for the best factual series, and then in 1985 an Emmy for his work on *The Living Planet: A Portrait of the Earth*, a first-ever award to a nature programme.

After 21 years and many adventures at the BBC, Ned and Suzanne 'retired' to a remote rural farmhouse on the Isle of Wight and raised a family, a boy and a girl. Suzanne, meanwhile, worked as a senior medical consultant on the island while Ned continued to work as a freelance tele-

vision producer and trek leader for Mountain Kingdoms, specialising in Nepal and Bhutan, between trips keeping fit on his mountain bike.

A man of many parts, Ned had been an actor in his youth. He played many roles as a member of the London Irish Theatre Group. He was a jazz enthusiast, a fine trumpet player and an entertaining speaker frequently at club dinners. Indeed, with fellow member Brian Royle, he once wrote and produced an opera for the Mynydd Club's annual event. For the Everest 60th Anniversary celebrations, in aid of the MEF Ned recorded one of his own compositions *Any Old Pitons* for Wanderlust, for the CD of climbing songs compiled by his old friend Dennis Gray and music producer Paul Cherry

Ned, with his happy chuckle and ready wit, was great company always enthusiastic and always ready with sound, practical advice. He kept up with the climbing world and was for some years a member of the BMC's Public Relations Committee. In retirement, Ned and Suzanne were generous hosts to climbers and old television colleagues who managed to brave the island ferry. He spent many hours carefully scanning back-numbers of the *Alpine Journal* into the digital archives, a task for which the Club is extremely grateful. His work in film and television is a worthy epitaph.

John Cleare

### Dr Neil C W Mackenzie 1983 - 2015

With the untimely death of Neil Mackenzie in January 2015, British mountaineering has lost one of its most enthusiastic and adventurous characters. While Neil embodied the spirit of his beloved Scottish Highlands, his endless thirst for adventure extended far beyond. Naturally he relished the summer and winter climbing that Scotland has to offer with many trips to the north-west Highlands. He was also an enthusiastic fell-runner, musician, ski-mountaineer, snowboarder and surfer, while developing an accomplished academic career in biological research. His enthusiasm for life extended into any organisation that he was part of, including the Eagle Ski Club, Alpine Club and Varsity Outdoor Club (VOC), for whom he regularly led trips and training courses for younger and less experienced members.

The passion he shared for life also came through in his publications. These extended beyond his own academic research, with a scientific review published in the *Journal of the Association of Surgeons of GB and Ireland* entitled *The Molecular Mysteries of the High Mountains*. Neil also made contributions to several blogs, co-authored expedition reports for the Eagle Ski Club Alaska expedition (2013) and British Columbia expedition (2011), as well as publishing articles in the Eagle Ski Club yearbook, VOC journal and on UKClimbing.com.

Throughout his youth, Neil enjoyed many adventures in the Highlands, where he forged numerous close friendships. He made many ascents of