

The Shaftesbury Lockdown Times

Mountainous Edition

Monday 15th June 2020

Volume 6

96 Years ago, on the 8th of June 1924 two men, looking like overdressed gamekeepers left their tent at 8140 m high up on Everest with the aim of being the first humans to the reach 8848 m summit.

Later that day they were seen by one of their back-up team, Noel Odell, who was looking up the mountain from a much lower vantage point:

“At 12.50, just after I had emerged from a state of jubilation at finding the first definite fossils on Everest, there was a sudden clearing of the atmosphere, and the entire summit ridge and final peak of Everest were unveiled. My eyes became fixed on one tiny black spot silhouetted on a small snow crest beneath a rock step in the ridge; the black spot moved. Another black spot became apparent and moved up the snow to join the other on the crest. The first then approached the great rock step and shortly emerged at the top; the second did likewise. Then the whole fascinating vision vanished, enveloped in cloud once more.”



This account was to be the last sighting of George Mallory, on the right of the photo, and Andrew Irvine on the left. They disappeared, never to be seen again.

Having come second in the race to reach the South Pole, the British were especially keen to be the first to the top of Everest. There had been several previous attempts some of them involving Mallory, who at 37 appears to have been obsessed by the mountain and probably thought this might be his last opportunity to climb it.



Andrew Irvine was much younger at 22. He was still at Oxford University and as well as rowing in the boat race had an engineering background that included work on getting a machine gun mounted on a plane and able to fire through the propeller's blade without damaging it! Mallory chose him as his climbing partner because the pair were to be using the rudimentary oxygen sets which were prone to breakdowns.

Did they reach the summit?

Whilst it is accepted that a successful summit attempt is only completed if the climber actually gets back down, there has been a lot of a research into the fate of Mallory and Irvine, much of it has been aimed at finding the camera that was believed to be carried by Andrew Irvine. Find the camera and it might be possible to develop a summit picture, if they made it.



A Body Is Found

In 1999, the Mallory and Irvine Research Expedition, found a body below where Irvine's axe had been found in 1933 at 27,760 ft (8,461.25 m), the team expected it to be Irvine's, and were hoping to recover the camera that he had reportedly carried with him. They were surprised to find that name tags on the body's clothing bore the name of "G. Leigh Mallory." The body was well preserved, due to the freezing conditions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFr1KdY6aiw>



Mallory's daughter said that Mallory carried a photo of his wife hoping to leave it on the summit. This photo was not found on Mallory's body. Given the excellent preservation of the body, its garments, and other items including documents in his wallet, this points to the possibility that he reached the summit and deposited the photo there.

Mallory's snow goggles were found in his pocket, suggesting that Irvine and he had made a push for the summit and were descending after sunset. Without goggles mountaineers can suffer serious snow blindness, so Mallory would be unlikely not to have been wearing them in daylight, and given their known departure time and movements, had they not attempted the summit pyramid that they would have still been out by nightfall is unlikely.



Until Irvine and the camera is found the debate will continue.

The coronavirus pandemic has stopped all climbing on Everest this season, with the exception of the Chinese who are taking the opportunity to survey the height of the mountain whilst there is no one else on it. Officially the summit is at 8848 m, but over the years the accuracy of this has been questioned. Who knows they might find a faded photo of this lady:



When does a hill become a mountain?

A hill becomes a mountain at 305 metres (1,000 feet). Hopefully you'll have taken up Mr Banks' Trig Point Challenge and reached some of our local high points.

Mountains and high places are often important in religions and for people of faith. Mountains figure quite prominently as places where important spiritual events have occurred and where people are given some revelation or special insight.

Mountains were important in the life of Jesus. For example, Jesus went up a mountain by Lake Galilee to give his disciples key teaching, which we now call the Sermon on the Mount. On the night before Jesus died, he and his disciples went to pray on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem.



It isn't just in Judaism and Christianity that mountains play a key part in the way in which God reveals himself to key people. Mountains are deemed to be sacred and special in many ancient religions. They are where temples are built and where people have climbed to look for closeness with God.

In Islam, it was in a cave on Mount Hira where Muhammad is said to have had his first vision of the angel Jibril, who gave him a message from Allah. This first message, and all the other messages that the angel later revealed to Muhammad, were collected together to make up the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam.



Mount Fuji, a beautiful mountain in Japan, is regarded as holy by Buddhists as well as by followers of the Japanese Shinto religion. Some say its name is from the ancient, aboriginal fire goddess, Fuchi. It is sacred to the Shinto goddess, Sengen-Sama, whose shrine is at the summit.



Machu Picchu is a well-preserved, fifteenth-century ceremonial site high on a mountain ridge in Peru. All around it are mountains that were of the greatest religious importance to the Incas. It contains the ruins of a large Inca palace, temples and other buildings.



It seems that mountains and the height that they give us almost invite God to use them to talk to his people, whichever religion they follow.

Imagine what going up a mountain is like: the effort involved in the climb and the reward of the view after you've reached the summit. You can see for many miles, farther than you could have imagined. The whole vista stretches out in front of you, to the side of you and behind you. It almost envelops you in its greatness and vastness. I can only imagine how this feeling must increase, the higher the mountain that you scale. Perhaps that is what made Mallory so obsessed with getting to the top of Everest. If you have been climbing through and above the clouds, there will be the sense that you are getting farther and farther from the Earth.

Stacy Allison, the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, said of it, 'The end of the ridge and the end of the world . . . then nothing but that clear, empty air. There was nowhere else to climb. I was standing on the top of the world.'

Maybe this is why God chooses mountains, and why they have been held to be sacred for so long. When you are up there, there is nothing but air and clearness.

A mountain can be a place to reflect and understand because anything that might worry you, or crowd you, is at the bottom. The time on the mountain is your time to be, to consider yourself and what is below you.

Maybe the mountain is somewhere people feel that they encounter God because for a short period of time, they give him space to talk to them.

Incidentally, the pink flamingo in the photo is plastic and had been adopted as the team mascot!



Let us be able to hear you, Lord, when you speak to us, Whether we are up a mountain or going about our daily tasks. Amen.



Is this the most extreme baptism? BBC Stories

This is the most extreme baptism you'll ever see. In Ethiopia, belief in a higher power leads villagers in the Tigray region to climb a huge, vertiginous mountainside to reach their church. They believe it's vital and beneficial for their children to be baptised here, despite the obvious dangers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saLJNsKuabs>

Get Up That Local Hill

Thanks to [@bishopshums](#) for this:

Who is going to find a trig point aka triangulation pillar this weekend?

Use the trigpointing UK app or website to find one of the 6190 trig points in the UK.

There are 42 in Herefordshire!

To find out more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/in-pictures-36036561>

[#trigpointchallenge](#) [#trigpoint](#) [#getoutside](#) [#ordnancesurvey](#)



Guess the Shaftesburian

Our happy, smiling little Shaftesburian girl from last week is Mrs Barker. Those who got it right recognised that much used smile!



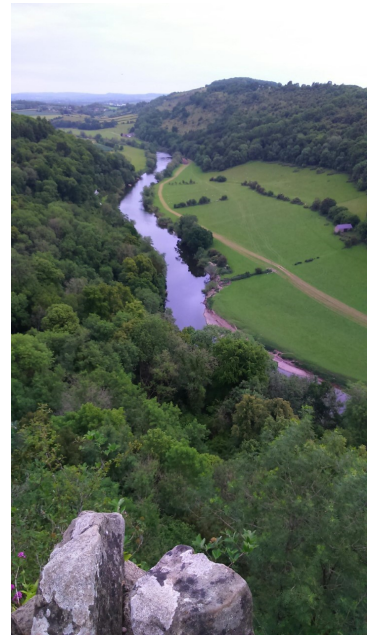
Mrs Barker, when a little older, climbed from sea level to the top of Mount Olympus for her D of E Silver Award:



Which Shaftesburian's interest in gravity and watching birds from above, takes him to the top of Yat Rock?

Yat Rock is just inside Gloucestershire, but this view is looking into Herefordshire.

It is Wye Valley views like this that prompted the start of tourism.



Reverend John

Egerton, was the son of The Bishop Hereford and a Rector of Ross between 1745 and 1771. By entertaining his guests on the river he created a fashion for boat trips on the river, which became quite the thing to do in the late 18th century.

250 years ago, William Gilpin's boat trip in 1770 is generally regarded as the birth of British tourism.

To know more: <https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/exploring-wye-valley-aonb/heritage/the-wye-tour/>

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Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?

Because then it would be a foot.

Why did the maths book look so sad?

Because of all of its problems.

You know, people say they pick their nose, but I feel like I was just born with mine.

I ordered a chicken and an egg online.

I'll let you know.



Shaftesburian Birthdays

this week:

Freya W SRV

Hayden J SRU

Maia D & Petruta B SLU

Callum S SLT

Happy birthday

from the rest of the house!

BHBS Together in Lockdown Map

Mr Banks would like us to help create a our own lockdown map:

You will need to go to:

<https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/>

User: hr11uu

Password: bloots4985

open the BHBS map challenge map in the file and drop a pin to create a 'BHBS Together in Lockdown' map.

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@ Mountaineers

What did one insomniac mountaineer say to the other insomniac mountaineer?

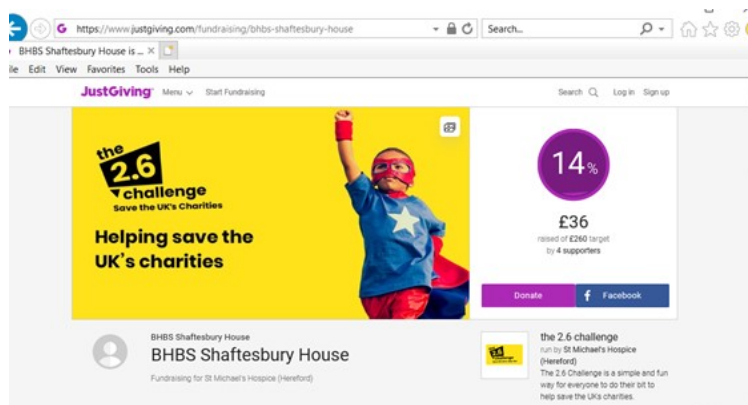
Do you ever rest?

What did the mountaineer say to the mountain?

I'm sick of your altitude!

We are still stuck!!

Can you help St Michael's Hospice & get us off £36?



Now I am sure you can do better?

Email them to the SLT Editor: rmlburgess@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

Otherwise, there are plenty more where they came from....

The SLT Editor would also welcome stories & pictures for the next edition.