



# MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION

*“On 29th May 1953, two men, both endowed with outstanding stamina and skill, inspired by an unflinching resolve, reached the top of Everest and came back unscathed.”*

The Ascent of Everest by John Hunt.

It was following this triumphant expedition that The Mount Everest Foundation (MEF), a charity formed by the Alpine Club and Royal Geographical Society (RGS), was established. Funded initially by the proceeds of the 1953 British expedition, the MEF now relies on donations to continue its support of the exploration and understanding of the world's mountain regions. In the last forty-seven years over 1,300 expeditions have been helped by the Mount Everest Foundation. Approval by the MEF, even without a cash grant, is highly valued by any expedition seeking sponsorship elsewhere.

In 2003, the Mount Everest Foundation will be leading the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the first ascent of Everest by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.

It is hoped that additional funds will be raised during these celebrations to enable the work of the Mount Everest Foundation to continue for years to come.

Planning is well under way on events in the UK, New Zealand and Nepal and elsewhere around the world. Sarah Turner has been appointed Programme Director in London to co-ordinate the 50th anniversary celebrations.

Dr Charles Clarke, Chairman of the Mount Everest Foundation Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, commented: “The first ascent of Everest captured the imagination of people all over the world and ranks as one of the most exciting symbols of human endeavour in the last century. The fiftieth anniversary celebrations will be a fitting tribute.”

The MEF Fiftieth Anniversary Committee is made up of:  
Dr Charles Clarke (Chairman),  
George Band (a member of the original 1953 team),  
Andy McNae (British Mountaineering Council),  
Richard Morgan (Honorary Treasurer),  
Martin Scott (Alpine Club),  
Nigel Winser (RGS-IBG),  
Sarah Turner (Programme Director),  
Elliot Robertson (RGS-IBG).

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE UK

### Mount Everest 50th Anniversary Expedition 2003

An Anniversary Everest Expedition, using the same route, resources, organisation and equipment as the original 1953 expedition, will be broadcast live to television audiences in the UK and around the world. Sir Chris Bonington, one of the world's most well-known mountaineers, is chair of the team's organising committee.

Iain Peter, the prominent Scottish climber is the leader of the 2003 Everest expedition and he is presently choosing the team. Potential candidates for this historic climb met for the first time in Plas y Brenin, North Wales in early December 2001.

The TV company Mentorn Barraclough Carey is working closely with the MEF to find a sponsor for the expedition. Discussions are already in progress with TV channels in the UK, US and Japan.

Iain said: “Our Everest Anniversary Expedition will be a key feature of the 2003 celebrations. It goes without saying that we must have team players but we are also looking for people who can enter into the spirit of the expedition in the same way as the 1953 climbers.”

Iain Peter is a highly experienced mountaineer with a proven track record at high altitude. He has undertaken eight trips to the Himalayas including the first British ascent and ski descent of Gasherbrum II and the first British ascent of Pobeda. He has climbed extensively around the world both as a climber and a guide covering, winter, alpine and rock climbing.

Iain has spent his career in the field of mountaineering, working for the British Mountaineering Council and the United Kingdom Mountain Training Board and consulting for Berghaus. He is currently Chief Executive Officer, Mountain Training Trust and has overall responsibility for the Plas y Brenin National Mountain Centre.

## Gala Celebration

A Gala Celebration is being held in London on the evening of Thursday 29th May 2003, at which it is anticipated Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip, Patron of the MEF, will be our guests. This celebration will feature veterans of the original expedition and film footage of the original ascent. There will also be a live satellite link to Sir Edmund Hillary who will be celebrating in Kathmandu and to the climbers on Mount Everest itself. The celebration will also feature a tribute to Nepal and to the Sherpas, the people of the Everest region who have made so many climbs on Everest possible. The MEF is identifying commercial partners to support this national event.

## Sir Edmund Hillary Dinner in aid of The Himalayan Trust

The MEF is in contact with the New Zealand High Commission and is planning to hold a dinner at the RGS-IBG on Tuesday 3rd June 2003 to honour Sir Edmund Hillary and to raise funds for The Sir Edmund Hillary Himalayan Trust.

## MEF Commemorative Book

The MEF, in association with the Royal Geographical Society and the Alpine Club, is contracting with Harper/Collins to publish a lavishly illustrated Commemorative Book on the climbing of Mount Everest. George Band, who was 24 in 1953 and the youngest member of the successful British expedition, will write the text. Other Everest book projects being explored include one by the Royal Geographical Society, which is publishing "Everest, Summit of Achievement."

## Everest Lecture Series

A number of Everest theme lectures are being planned around the Britain in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society.

## A Special Limited Edition of the original "The Ascent of Everest" by John Hunt

The MEF is publishing, with Hodder & Stoughton, a limited edition of John Hunt's bestseller describing the original 1953 expedition. The book will carry signatures of the 1953 team.

## 50th Anniversary Stamp

The MEF has approached the Royal Mail about the possibility of producing a 50th Anniversary stamp as part of the celebrations. The proposal is under consideration.

## "Mount Everest" – limited edition print by Keith Shackleton

A limited number of prints of this fine painting by Keith Shackleton will be on sale from mid 2002. Noel Odell, John Noel, Lord Hunt, Sir Chris Bonington and Doug Scott have signed all the prints.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEPAL

The Mount Everest Golden Jubilee Committee (MEGJC – [www.mteverestgolden50.com](http://www.mteverestgolden50.com)) is planning a variety of special events and adventure sports to celebrate the ultimate adventure sport, the conquest of Everest. The celebrations start in June 2002 and culminate in a unique gathering of Mount Everest Summiteers in May 2003. Nepal brings together all those who share that spirit of adventure, a love of nature at its best to celebrate a life without boundaries capturing the world's imagination once more.

Events include: the Everest Marathon – this is will be the highest marathon ever run in the world, exhilarating mountain biking, thrilling white water rafting, breath taking hot air ballooning, elephant polo – a unique sport to Nepal and rock climbing in the central region of the Himalayas.

Sir Edmund Hillary, Honorary President, will be in Nepal on the 29th May 2003 to share his thoughts with his fellow mountaineers at a wonderful golden jubilee dinner. He is planning to come to London the following week for further celebrations.

## Become a sponsor of the MEF 50th Anniversary Celebrations

The MEF is looking for commercial partners to support both national and international events. Contact Sarah Turner, MEF Events Director for further information.



For further information about any of these events, please contact Sarah Turner at [sarahmalc@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahmalc@yahoo.com) or visit the MEF website: [www.mef.org.uk](http://www.mef.org.uk)