

Eastern District lectures, 2025-26

The autumn season of 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. At this time of day, parking is usually available in the Grassmarket at the foot of Victoria Street.

The lectures are sponsored by the SMC, the Edinburgh JMCS and the Alpine Club and all members are welcome to attend, and support the speakers. Talks commence at 7.30pm prompt as we are obliged to vacate the premises by 9.30pm. The number of excellent hostelrys in the area – the Bow Bar is usually favoured afterwards - should not make this a difficult task!

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.

The following talks have been arranged so far.

14 October 2024

Rosie Aldridge is an environmental geography student at the University of Stirling currently hoping to pursue a masters in something glaciology related. Her talk will broadly describe Glaciers and Landscape Change through a Mountaineering Lens, focussing on the landscape of Saas Fee, but also including experience gained from a month in Greenland this summer.

The evening will be hosted by James Moncur.

Please contact him by the day before the lecture if you would like to dine.

moncurjames2@gmail.com

11 November 2024

Tim Simons - A century and more of Scottish Cross Country Routes – from the Cheviots to the Western Isles.

Just over a century ago, Walter Smith – a founding member of the SMC and Chairman of the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays) - published a book on the Hill Paths of Scotland. This became the model for later guides by Rev AE Robertson and Donald Moir who gave the guide the modern title of Scottish Hill Tracks. The sixth edition of this popular guide was published last year and the editor, Tim Simons, will give a talk on the history of Scottish hill tracks, the new edition and a brief history of ScotWays and Rights of Way in Scotland.

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