

# SENIOR FELLOWS CLUB

MEETING AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS



Dr Ian Calder  
Chairman, Senior Fellows Club

Our ever-cheerful president, Dr Liam Brennan, struggled to find us good news – these are difficult times. But when David Wilkinson, the past-president of the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, described the work of the Federation, we realised that we still have a great deal to be thankful for. The Club was delighted to see that the College now uses a sketch by our member John Mathias as the screen saver in the lecture theatre.



Guest speaker: Harriet Tuckey

Our invited speaker was Harriet Tuckey, who told us about her brilliant but difficult father, Griffith Pugh. Pugh analysed the reasons for the repeated failures of British attempts to climb Everest, formulated the policies for oxygen usage, acclimatisation, hydration, diet and hygiene, and designed the clothing, tents, and high-altitude cookers used in the successful 1953 ascent. Harriet realised that Pugh's role had been deliberately obscured in the official

account by John Hunt – admiration for amateurism was entrenched in the 1950s, and sharing glory is a hard thing to do. Pugh continued his work on high-altitude physiology by setting up the Silver Hut laboratory at 6,000 metres in Nepal, recruiting now legendary young scientists such as John West and Jim Milledge. He was fascinated by temperature control, and studied athletes, swimmers and walkers. After four children perished in one weekend on a walk in Yorkshire, Pugh

dressed volunteers in the dead youths' largely cotton clothing, sprayed them with cold water in a wind tunnel, and showed that they were effectively naked. Griffith became a pioneer of sports medicine. He was sought out by athletes, but again his work was resented by the sporting establishment as 'professionalism'. John West described Harriet's biography of her father as 'superb'. He was right.

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The next meeting will be on 2 November 2017 at the College.  
The invited speaker is **Emeritus Professor Edzard Ernst**

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