



British Branch Meeting 2018

University of Exeter, 4–5 September 2018

The 43rd Annual Meeting of the International Glaciological Society British Branch was hosted by the University of Exeter, between 4 and 5 September 2018. We were warmly welcomed to the beautiful Exeter campus by Anne Le Brocq and the rest of the organizing committee. We settled into the sunny southwest, ready for two days of presentations on all aspects of glaciology, stretching from the Greenland Ice Sheet, through mountain glaciers, to Antarctica. Altogether, we enjoyed 27 oral presentations, with 14 given by postgraduate students, and 28 poster presentations.

The first day started with a morning of talks on the Greenland Ice Sheet. This began with presentations by Susan Bevan and Josh Williams, informing us about recent changes in Greenland's dynamic behaviour. We then moved on to learn about approaches to high-resolution monitoring of Greenland, namely terrestrial time-lapse and drone surveys. After a short break, we heard about work on Greenland's hydrology, including Liz Bagshaw's Cryoeegs and the challenges of field testing them!

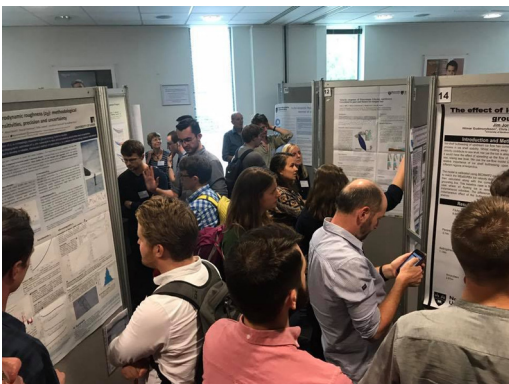
After lunch, the talks moved to a smaller scale and examined recent changes on glaciers and ice caps. This included some excellent work on surge-type glaciers and some mesmerizing videos of glacier dynamics from Adrian Luckman. Talks concluded mid-afternoon and we began a vibrant and very busy poster session. The posters covered a wide range of different topics and approaches, including numerical modelling, fieldwork and



Susan Bevan kicking off the first day of talks.

remote sensing. We saw data from across the world, with presenters discussing results from Antarctica, Greenland and the Himalaya. We even found out about glaciers on Mars! Overall, the poster session demonstrated the very high quality of work being done in UK glaciology and being presented at British Branch: many of the posters and talks would be very well placed at international conferences (and I'm sure many will be presented there in the near future!).

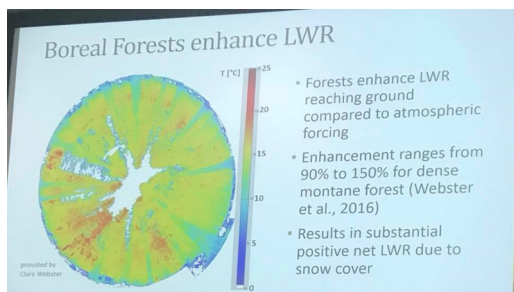
After the posters, we transferred the ongoing discussions to the conference dinner at Exeter University's impressive Reed Hall. After some delicious food and excellent beer, we had a lesson in Norse mythology from our very own Magnús.



A very busy poster session!



Enjoying dinner and further glaciological discussions in Exeter University's Reed Hall.



One of the coolest (pardon the pun) figures from the talks: it shows temperatures in a forest canopy, looking upwards from the ground, and was presented by Markus Todt.

We learnt about Fenris, Helheim and Midgaard, known to some as part of the story of Loki and his sons, and others as a set of outlet glaciers in eastern Greenland! After the end of the tale, we finished our drinks and headed to a local public house to sample the excellent beer that Exeter has to offer.

Day 2 began bright and early with a session on subglacial environments. This was kicked off by David Sugden, talking about the pre-glacial geomorphology of Antarctica, followed by Kate Winter outlining the topographic controls in Antarctic ice flow. Two further talks on subglacial properties followed, delivered by Francesca Falcini and Emma Pearce. We then had the IGS British Branch Meeting, where we discussed future host venues and it was confirmed that the next meeting will be at Northumbria University in Newcastle.

The penultimate session saw three talks about snow, which is a major part of our cryosphere and so it was great to see it represented in the talk topics this year. We then moved on to a really interesting talk by Andrew Tedstone about the impact of algae on Greenland Ice Sheet melting. Finally, Nick Selmes presented Caroline Clason's talk, as she was unfortunately unwell and could not attend. We all wished Caroline a very speedy recovery and really hope to see her fit and well for next year's meeting.

The period after lunch was devoted to the IGS AGM, where we saw the treasurer's report and discussed future use of the funds held by the society. The final session focussed on ice-water interactions and took us a journey all over the globe, from mountain lakes in Sweden to the Nivlisen Ice Shelf in East Antarctica. Here, we got to see that money is definitely not everything when it comes to purchasing field kit, with Adrian Dye showing us great results from a toy boat he bought on eBay!

The British Branch Meeting finished with the customary awarding of the John Glen prizes for student presentations, which were judged by David Sugden, Liz Morris and Nick Rutter. The winners were Josh Williams for the best talk, entitled 'Decadal scale ice velocity change at land-terminating margins of the Greenland Ice Sheet' and Ben Davidson for his poster on 'Contrasting seasonal speed-ups of neighbouring Greenlandic tidewater glaciers'. Congratulations to both our winners and all the fantastic student presenters.

All that remains is to thank the local organizing committee for an interesting and productive meeting and to also thank everyone for presenting their work. We can all look forward to the next meeting at Northumbria University in September 2019.

Rachel Carr



Presentations of the John Glen prizes to Ben Davidson (best poster, above) and Josh Williams (best talk).