

February 2024



*The Cairngorm Club*

*Established 1887*

Registered Charity

Number - SC047567

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**Editor** Colin Brown

# Clac Dian

The Newsletter of the Cairngorm Club

## THIS IS THE LAST NEWSLETTER YOU WILL RECEIVE BY POST!

(unless you request the printed version).

From the June 2024 issue, members will receive an electronic copy of the Newsletter by email. The email address you have supplied to the Club will be added to an email distribution group for this purpose. If you are happy with the switch and we have your correct email address, you need do nothing.

For some years, rising costs for printing and (especially) postage have led us to encourage Members to switch from receiving a paper version of the thrice-yearly Newsletter to an electronic one, sent by email. Both versions are exactly the same. To reduce costs and the effort of stuffing, labelling and posting about 250 copies of the printed Newsletter, the Club Committee has decided to switch from having the printed version as the default to having the **electronic version as the default**. The printed version will only be sent to those who ask for it.

To request the printed version in future, please either email - Donald Thomas at [membership@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@cairngormclub.org.uk).

## The Club Forum

Since 2011, the Club has maintained a members-only website forum.

*Advanced user features include the ability to upload photos, and by subscribing to individual (sub-)Forums, you can get email alerts of activity in them.* All users registered can post or read many different items, such as accounts of Club meets and other expeditions, and “news and banter” about Club affairs, e.g. Committee and AGM minutes. To register, go to <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cairngormclub/index.php>, and enter a username and password.

## BBQs

This summer, the Club is running two official BBQs -

- On Wednesday 12th June, the RNUC will cater for an "after work" BBQ, with drinks available to buy from their bar. Eilidh will be emailing all details on the club Google Group at the beginning of May. Weather permitting, the BBQ will be out of doors, but otherwise it will be in the Garden Room.
- On Saturday 3rd August, the Club will be running its own BBQ at Muir Cottage, as an adjunct to the Club weekend there. All members are welcome to attend (whether they are staying at Muir or just coming for the event) and to bring friends - but they need to book and pay for the meals (indicating any food issues) no later than Friday 19th July. It will be a "bring your own drinks" event, though tea and coffee will be supplied. Further information will go out on Club Google Group after the RNUC BBQ.

## Safety on the Hill

The Committee considers that the document “Safety & Liability: Guidance for Clubs” should be brought to the attention of members: it is available from [www.mountaineering.scot/clubs/advice-and-resources/safety-and-liability-guidance](http://www.mountaineering.scot/clubs/advice-and-resources/safety-and-liability-guidance). As it says on the tin, this is for clubs, but it contains links to a good deal of advice for individuals and parties, as of course exists elsewhere on the MScot website: see <https://www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills>.

## Muir

Muir bookings are back to pre Covid numbers. The planning for the work weekend from the 23 - 26 May has started and I am taking bookings. As usual participants can overnight for free, and a lunch will be provided on the Saturday. The May midweek walkers are invited to come to Muir for coffee after the walk, and some home baking will be very much appreciated.

Kees Witte, Hut Custodian

## Day Meets 2024

At the Club's AGM last November, Garry Wardrope stood down as Day Meets Secretary after nine years of excellent service in the role. The baton was handed to me, and I was announced as his replacement. Many thanks go to Garry for arranging so many great excursions over the years.

In the week before Christmas a 'sub-committee' (made up of members who have organised day meets in the past, and members keen to help with future trips) gathered in Ma Cameron's. Between us we swiftly completed the 2024 calendar with a fine selection of locations for the coming months. I'm very grateful to all who attended, with ideas and offers to organise.

Below (where not shown on pages 7 – 9) is a list of dates, destinations and organisers of this year's Day Meets. The year started with the annual winter visit to Lochnagar and the next Day Meet is to the Ladder Hills on 17 Feb. The year will be completed with a traverse of Morven in December.

I hope there's plenty to whet your appetite.

|                   |                               |                      |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sat 13 July       | Lochnagar Indicator Centenary | (Ken Thomson)        |
| Sat/Sun 10/11 Aug | Creag Meagaidh Overnighter    | (Vay Mutch)          |
| Sun 08 Sept       | Cairngorm Traverse            | (Guy Bromby)         |
| Sat 05 Oct        | Dufftown / Aberlour           | (Colin Brown)        |
| Sun 03 Nov        | Ben Vrackie                   | (Kolbjørn Akselvoll) |
| Sun 08 Dec        | Morven W to E Traverse        | (Helen Russell)      |

Craig Thomson  
Day Meets Secretary

## New President

At the 2023 AGM in November, Helen Russell was elected to the three-year post of Club President. Helen has been a member of the Club since 2017, and Weekend Meets Secretary since 2021. She has hit the ground running, e.g. by instigating a Club Website Review and a Membership Survey, both aimed at improving the recruitment and retention of members. I'm sure she has other ideas, and the Committee look forward to working with her on the above and any other initiatives.

## Club Members Survey

The Committee is in the process of preparing a survey for Club members. to understand better what members want from the Club and to help inform any required improvements and or changes. The Committee would greatly appreciate as many members as possible taking the time to complete and submit the survey when it is issued.

## Adder Swimming!

See - <https://twitter.com/i/status/1669774566447611907>

## **AGM 2023**

This exciting event took place on 15 November last in the Queen's Cross Church Centre, with a goodly number in attendance, most in person but some via Zoom. The usual suspects made the usual reports, with oral exchanges mostly limited to fire arrangements etc. at Muir. The Treasurer then presented a very satisfactory set of accounts for 2022/23, including Club membership up from 340 to 359, and subscription rates for 2024/25 were then approved. Elections to the Committee resulted in Helen Russell as our new President, with Mike Duguid taking over from Izy Kirkaldy as a Vice-President, Craig Thomson taking over as Day Meets Secretary, Stuart Dick confirmed as Climbing Secretary, and Will Ellwood joining as an "ordinary" Committee member. All other members of cast were re-elected. Under AOCB, some current mobile mast and windfarm proposals in the Cairngorms area were mentioned, but the only matter of some discussion was the request from the University Library that the status of the Club archives (e.g. historical correspondence, minute books, etc.) at Kings College be confirmed as a gift: this provoked some concerns, which the Committee is pursuing. Draft minutes of the AGM can be examined on the Club Forum, under "Club News and Discussion". Following the AGM and a cuppa, local hydromorphologist Stephen Addy gave an interesting talk on restoring the banks of the Dee, e.g. just above Braemar.

## **Payments to the Club**

The Club's bank details are:

Name "Cairngorm Club" Sort Code 83-15-31; A/C 19165508.

Please use the purpose of the payment as the reference e.g., "Traverse" or "Membership". Your account name is provided by the bank and should not be repeated. The reference field may be limited to 18 characters, including blanks.

## **Winter Skills Training**

This year's winter training will coincide with the weekend meet to Lagangarbh Cottage on 2/3 March. Topics covered will depend on the wishes of the group but will likely cover such things as moving on snow and ice, ice axe arrest and avalanche awareness. Likely cost for two days' training is £55 (subsidised by the Club), a bargain for what is on offer. Suitable for complete winter novices or more experienced members looking to brush up on their skills.

To book or express an interest, please email [training@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:training@cairngormclub.org.uk).

## **"Clear on Deer"**

A 30-minute John Muir Trust video presents the case for reducing deer numbers in Scotland: see [www.johnmuirtrust.org/clearondeer](http://www.johnmuirtrust.org/clearondeer).

## Club Subscriptions

Cairngorm Club subscription rates for 2023/24 are:

|       | Full Rate | Reduced Rate |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| Club  | £13.00    | £ 6.50       |
| MS    | £20.15    | £20.15       |
| Total | £33.15    | £26.65       |

Direct Debits were collected on 2 October 2023. Members not paying by direct debit should ensure that payment is received as soon as possible.

All members are encouraged to pay their subscription by Direct Debit and, where appropriate, to make a Gift Aid Declaration. Forms for each are available from the Treasurer.

We have been notified that the Mountaineering Scotland affiliation fee for 2024/25 will rise by £1.60. Consequently, the Cairngorm Club subscription for 2024/25 (due in October 2024) will rise by this amount.

A membership card for 2024 was enclosed with the October Newsletter.

Donald Thomas, Treasurer  
[treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk)

## Mid-Month Stravaigs

Following the piece in the October Newsletter introducing the idea of Club walks which would be shorter than the end-of-month Mid-Week Walks, we are looking at monthly “Stravaigs” in the second week of each month: at the moment we are suggesting Fridays (but this could be varied), and possibly only during the spring, summer and autumn when the MWWs tend to be longer. As with MWWs, these are to be car meets, with an option to car-share.

First Stravaig: Friday 15 March: destination to be advised: but there will be a coffee stop at the end, when we can discuss future dates, routes, organisers, etc.

Meet at 10.30 at Kingswells Park and Ride for those wanting to car-share. Anyone with problems getting to the P&R should contact Gill Shirreffs to arrange suitable pick-up points.

Please bring a packed lunch, and boots in case of mud!

In future, there will be a Stravaigs notice published in each Newsletter, and about 10 days prior to the meet further details will be posted both on the Club website and through e mail.

Contact: Gill Shirreffs by email at [gill@shirreffs.net](mailto:gill@shirreffs.net).

## **Snowholing Overnighter**

This year's snowholing trip will be on an ad-hoc date tailored to conditions, likely in February or March. To register an interest, please contact Mike Duguid by email at [vp2@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:vp2@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## **Trip to Corvara**

Notes of interest are sought for a return trip to Corvara in the Dolomites. Highlights will be Alpine meadows filled with flowers and huts selling strudels, good high-level mountain paths, good valley walks, chair lifts from the village, via ferrata, climbing etc.

Would suit folk who like a bit of comfort, i.e. nice hotel, good food and convivial company (depending on who goes!) The intention is to fly from Aberdeen to Venice during July 2024.

Notes of interest please, to Adrian Scott.

## **Compleaters**

The 29 Oct 2023 brought the culmination of a Corbett journey for two Club members. Jean Robinson and Mark Peel met up in very wet conditions and both summited their final peak, Cnoc Coinnich which lies between Loch Goil and Loch Long. Congratulations to both of them.

In Jean's words – "I compleated the Munros on July 13th 2006 on Sgurr Mhic Coinnich via Collie's Ledge, and the Corbetts on October 29th 2023 on Cnoc Coinnich. I didn't plan for them to partly have the same name!

I think I enjoyed the Corbetts more but latterly was finding them, especially the ones from Poolewe, really tough going. I don't think I could have gone on for much longer, so I'm very chuffed to have made it."

Mark after receiving a quaich from the Club said in an email sent out on Google Groups "I was taken by surprise with the presentation of the engraved quaich. It was a very kind gesture and much appreciated. I have placed the quaich in the front of my small display cabinet. All I can do is to recommend the Corbetts to everyone."

So if you are looking for a new challenge, why not take Mark up on his recommendation?

## **Social Update**

Preparation has begun of the programme for the Social events to take place next winter (2024/25), and 2 have already been booked. They are as follows -

2nd October: Emma Macdonald, Alpine Club Librarian on the History of Women Climbing

4th December: Iain Young, on the Cairngorms

The above, and the rest of the winter events, will be held in the Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross Church).

Eilidh Scobbie, Social Secretary

Day Meets take place once a month and can be by coach, mini-bus, car, or service bus. Meets are generally on Sundays but occasionally on Saturdays. Members should contact the Meet Organiser to book a place. The organiser or Day Meets Secretary can be contacted if any additional information is sought.

Meets generally leave Aberdeen at St. Margaret's School, Albyn Place, at 7am, with pick-ups possible on the route out (which may vary with meet location). Departure times and cost are listed on pages 8 and 9 of this Newsletter. On all Meets, an organised "President's Party" walk will be available for those new to the Club or for members who simply want a day out without the challenge of route-finding or navigation. The following Day Excursions are offered for late Winter/Spring 2024.

## **February 17, Ladder Hills (Saturday)**

Travelling by minibus we will depart from St. Margaret's at 8am. Starting in Glenbuchat the President's Party will head for the summit Carn Mor. There will be a stop for refreshments and food before returning to Aberdeen. To book, please contact Craig Thomson by email at [day@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## **March 16, Carn an t-Sagairt Mor Traverse (Saturday)**

Travelling by minibus and starting from Keiloch we head up through Ballochbuie Forest, over the Munro Carn an t-Sagairt Mor to Loch Callater. We will return down past the bothy and follow the river to Auchallater. Shorter options include a traverse via Loch Phadruig or circuits around Ballochbuie. To book, contact Mike Duguid by email at [vp2@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:vp2@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## **April 7, Sgor Gaoith (Sunday)**

Travelling by minibus, the President's Party will approach Sgòr Gaoith from the Allt Ruadh (South of Feshiebridge). Time allowing, a brief stop for refreshments will be possible in Aviemore. To book, contact Vay Mutch by email at [ctte5@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte5@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## **May 19, Devil's Point from Linn o'Dee (Sunday)**

Travelling by minibus we will leave St. Margaret's at 7am. The President's Party will have a long spring day out with a start from Linn of Dee and walking out to The Devil's Point. There will be a stop at a chipper on the return journey to Aberdeen. To book, contact Will Ellwood by email at [ctte7@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte7@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## **June 22-23, Overnighter in the Mamores (Saturday/Sunday)**

A minibus trip, starting at the Polldubh car park in Glen Nevis, main party will walk over the two westerly Munros (Mullach Nan Coirean and Stob Ban) to then descend to the bealach and Lochan Coire Nam Miseach to camp/bivvy. Next day we will ascend Sgurr an Lubhair and Sgurr a Mhaim and descend back to car park. Option for others to carry on Am Bodach and An Gearanach and descend into upper Glen Nevis to get picked up at the head of Glen Nevis car park. Minibus will return to Aberdeen in the evening. To book contact Tom Litterick by email at [meetorganiser29@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser29@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## January 2024

- 24 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 25 Thur MWW Hill of Beltie (Ken Thomson; secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 26 Fri Weekend Muir Cottage - Burns Supper Weekend (Helen Russell; weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 31 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

## February

- 7 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 7 Wed Social Members Night. In the Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross Church) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 9 Fri Weekend Milehouse Cottage, Feshiebridge (Kolbjorn Akselvoll; ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 14 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 17 Sat Day Ladder Hills (8am; 37; 340190; 6hrs; £15; minibus; Craig Thomson; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 21 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 28 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 29 Thur MWW Loch Kinord (Malcolm Lamont)

## March

- 1 Fri Weekend Lagangarbh Hut, Glencoe (Steven Pollok; meetorganiser28@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 6 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 6 Wed Social Safety in the Hills - Scottish Mountain Rescue. In the Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross Church). (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 13 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 15 Fri Stravaig Location TBC (Gill Shirreffs).
- 16 Sat Day Carn an t-Sagairt Mor Traverse (7am; 43 & 44; 188913 - 157883; 7hrs; £15; minibus; Mike Duguid; vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 20 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 27 Wed Climbing Indoor Climbing at Transition Extreme (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
- 28 Thur MWW Seacliffs, Arbroath (Judy Middleton; meetorganiser19@cairngormclub.org.uk)



| April |              |  |
|-------|--------------|--|
| 2     | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing Season Begins - Alan's Cliff (High tide 20:24)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)       |
| 7     | Sun Day      | Sgor Gaoith (7am; 36;852013; 7hrs;£15; minibus; Vay Mutch;<br>ctte5@cairngormclub.org.uk)                          |
| 9     | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Meikle Partans (Low tide 20:48)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                    |
| 16    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Boltsheugh (High tide 20:21)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                       |
| 19    | Fri Weekend  | Mol Mor, Torridon (Brian Purves; ctte8@cairngormclub.org.uk)   |
| 23    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Burn o'Vat (Stuart Dick;<br>climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)   |
| 25    | Thur MWW     | Mormond Hill, Strichen (Tom Baird)   |
| 30    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Cairnrobin Point (High tide 18:58)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                 |
| May   |              |  |
| 3     | Fri Weekend  | Loch Ossian Youth Hostel (Joyce Ritchie;<br>mww@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 7     | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Craig Corn Arn (High tide 19:43)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                   |
| 14    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Hidden Inlet (South) (High tide 19:28)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)             |
| 19    | Sun Day      | Devil's Point from Linn o'Dee (7am; 43; 063898; 7.5hrs; £15;<br>minibus; Will Ellwood; ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk) |
| 21    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Pass of Ballater (West)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| 23    | Thur MWW     | Carn Mor, Glen Ey followed by refreshments at Muir Cottage<br>(Ken Thomson; secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)        |
| 23    | Thur Other   | Muir Cottage Work Weekend (runs till Sunday) (Kees Witte;<br>huts@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| 28    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Yellow Wall (High tide 17:53)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                      |
| 31    | Fri Weekend  | Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric (Alex Barbour;<br>meetorganiser17@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| June  |              |  |
| 4     | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Peel Slough (Low tide 18:36)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                       |
| 11    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Fulmar Wall (High tide 18:01)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                      |
| 12    | Wed BBQ      | At the RNUC (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 18    | Tue Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Souter Head (Low tide 17:51)<br>(Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)                       |
| 22    | Sat Day      | Overnighter - Mamores (Tom Litterick;<br>meetorganiser29@cairngormclub.org.uk)                                     |

**Please note: bookings not confirmed until payment is made.**

**February 9 & 10 Milehouse Cottage, Feshiebridge (2 nights)**

Located one mile from village of Kincaig on the road to Insh, the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club Hut is the perfect location from which to visit the Cairngorm and Drumochter hills right on the doorstep. To book, please contact Kolbjorn Akselvoll by email at [ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk).

**March 1 & 2, Lagangarbh Hut, Glencoe (2 nights)**

Situated just off the A82, lying north of Buachaille Etive Mor, Lagangarbh is an excellent location for climbers and walkers offering a range of hills within easy striking distance. We have reserved 14 beds. There is electric heating, cooking facilities and lighting. The hut has a drying room, toilets and shower. To book, contact Steven Pollok by email at [meetorganiser28@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser28@cairngormclub.org.uk).

**April 19 & 20, Mol Mor, Torridon (2 nights)**

Part of a converted farm steading at the head of Loch Torridon, Mol Mor provides good-quality accommodation for up to ten people. This meet has proved very popular with all 10 places snapped up very early. A waiting list is now in operation so if you wish to be added to it, please contact Brian Purves by email at [ctte8@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte8@cairngormclub.org.uk).

**May 3 & 4, Loch Ossian Youth Hostel (2 nights)**

A chance to stay at the unique Loch Ossian Youth Hostel which is accessible by train, bike or on foot. It is an ideal base for the Munros around Loch Ossian, the Ben Alder range and the Corbett Leum Uilleim. To book, contact Joyce Ritchie by email at [mww@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:mww@cairngormclub.org.uk).

**May 31 & June 1, Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric (2 nights)**

Strawberry Cottage in Glen Affric is maintained by the An Teallach Mountaineering Club. It is a unique location with access to many of the fantastic ridges that are not easily accessible for a day tripper. To book, contact Alex Barbour by email at [meetorganiser17@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser17@cairngormclub.org.uk).

**Day Meets** - where appropriate for some meets - departure time; map sheet(s); grid reference(s) of drop-off and pick-up points; walking time; cost; means of transport; organiser contact details)

**Mid-Week Walks** (organiser; contact details, if available)

**Weekend Meets** (organiser; contact details)

**Climbing (Summer)** (organiser; contact details)

## Membership News

The Club is sorry to hear of the death of the following member:

George Howie (Bielside, Ordinary Life member, joined 1962)

The following members have been admitted since the last Newsletter:

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rob Menlove             | (Balmedie, Associate)          |
| David Christie          | (Westhill, Associate)          |
| Joe Day                 | (Keig, Ordinary)               |
| Ian Diack               | (Banchory, Ordinary – re-join) |
| Ed Cozens               | (Newtonhill, Associate)        |
| Peter & Patricia Fraser | (Monymusk, Associates)         |
| Eamonn Close            | (Aberdeen, Ordinary)           |
| Andrew McNicoll         | (Laurencekirk, Ordinary)       |
| Rebecca Langton         | (Aberdeen, Interim)            |
| Sam Kindler             | (Aberdeen, Associate)          |
| Graham Reid             | (Aberdeen, Associate)          |
| Lindsay Ashworth        | (Cockermouth, Associate)       |
| Helene Corrieu          | (Banchory, Associate)          |

The following Associate has transferred to Ordinary Membership:

Monica Rooney (Ireland; member since 2022)

The Club has also attracted 5 new Interim members since the last Newsletter.

## Donations

The Club has contributed financially to the following project:

£5000 to the Mountaineering Scotland/Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland appeal, “It’s Up to Us”, see MS and/or OATS websites for more information.

## George Fowlie Bequest

Some members may remember George – an ex-merchant seaman who latterly worked in the food processing industry – who died last spring. He joined the Club in 1992, and was a regular on bus meets etc. until a stroke in 2009. He has bequeathed £1000 to Club funds, for which we are very grateful. The Committee will no doubt consider any specific purpose to which this amount may be used.

## Club Journal Editorship

Jean Robinson has announced her intention to relinquish this important post in summer 2024, when the forthcoming CCJ issue (her fourth) will have been issued to members and placed online. However, she will be happy to support a successor with the following issue, which would be expected in 2026 or thereabouts. Anyone interested in taking over this job is invited to contact Jean or the Secretary or President (see back page). Some familiarity with Word (and English!) would be desirable, but no special publishing expertise is expected.

## **Keeping Safe in the Mountains – Indoor Meet 6 March 2024**

There is no adventure without risk, but as hill-goers, we must all be aware of the dangers and know how to minimise the risks. With this in mind, our March Indoor Meet will focus on safety in the hills, learning about the factors which give rise to most callouts, based on the statistics of the Scottish Mountain Rescue Teams, and also about what could have been done to prevent incidents giving rise to callouts.

Our talk will be given on Zoom by two speakers, Jessica Steinemann who maintains the Mountain Rescue statistics and Ross Cadie who is the Team Leader of Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team.

This talk takes place on Wednesday 6 March 2024, in the Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross starting at 7.30. The usual refreshments will be provided. It is planned that the talk (though probably not any questions) will eventually be available on YouTube, for anyone unable to attend the talk in person.

## **Have you ever been involved in a Hill Rescue?**

The Mountain Safety Group is currently conducting a survey which is open to anyone who has been rescued or involved in a rescue in the hills or mountains of the UK and Ireland. They are looking for people to share their experiences and stories (anonymously) so they can better understand the causes of mountain accidents. The survey can be viewed and completed here - <https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/mountain-incidents>. It shouldn't take you long to complete.

## **NTS Cards**

The Club has 15 cards which allow free entry to NTS (and NT, in England) properties and car parks. To borrow, please contact Ken Thomson (see back page).

## **Meet Suggestions**

The Weekend and Day Meet Secretaries are always on the lookout for walks that could be incorporated into the Meets Calendar (for 2024 and/or 2025). If you have an idea for a meet, just contact them (see back page).

## **Physiotherapy Services**

For treatment of injuries or conditions which have arisen during sporting activities or affect participation in them, other than chronic degenerative conditions.

Cost £39 (a discount of £5) on proof of Club membership (e.g. card); priority appointments for Club members; next-day appointments if booked before noon.

**Aberdeen Physiotherapy - 01224 626266**

## Weekend Meets

Further to meets mentioned elsewhere, here are the Weekend meets for the rest of 2024:

|                    |                                   |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Jul 19 (2 nights)  | Kirkwall Bay Campsite, Orkney     | Sue Chalmers     |
| Aug 2 (2 nights)   | Muir Cottage                      | Eilidh Scobbie   |
| Aug 16 (2 nights)  | Glassie Farm Bunkhouse, Aberfeldy | Tom Litterick    |
| Sept 27 (2 nights) | Saddle Hostel, Invergarry         | Helen Russell    |
| Oct 18 (2 nights)  | Raeburn Hut, Laggan               | Sue Miller       |
| Nov 15 (2 nights)  | Inver Croft, Achnasheen           | Caroline Watt    |
| Nov 29 (2 nights)  | Corran Bunkhouse                  | Esperanza Martin |

## Midweek Walks

Further to meets mentioned elsewhere, here are the Midweek Walks for the rest of 2024:

|         |                                      |               |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| June 27 | Kerloch                              | Brian Purves  |
| July 25 | Carn Ealasaid                        | Helen Russell |
| Aug 29  | Gelder Shiel                         | Joyce Ritchie |
| Sept 26 | Cairn William, Pitfichie             | Tom Litterick |
| Oct 31  | Glenbuchat Ridge                     | Kevin Adam    |
| Nov 28  | Inverbervie Circular                 | Brian Davey   |
| Dec 12  | Ellon followed by<br>Christmas lunch | Marj Ewan     |

## Lochnagar Indicator Memorial Meet (Saturday 13 July 2024)

The viewpoint indicator on the summit of Lochnagar was “unveiled” on 12 July 1924 (see *CCJ* no. 62 (Sept. 1924), pp. 53-73, with photos; available via the Club website), and a centennial commemoration is therefore planned. The minibus (or possibly coach, if numbers justify that) will start from St. Margaret’s School near Holborn Junction in Aberdeen at 8am, and by prior arrangement can pick folk up along the North Deeside Road. That should mean a start from the Spital of Glen Muick about 9:30am, and arrival by all at the summit by say 1pm, for perhaps a short “ceremony”. With the Glas Allt descent, we should be back at the Spital by 5:30pm, allowing a meal in mid-Deeside at say 6:30pm. Costs (transport and meal), and indeed all arrangements, yet to be confirmed!

## Mountaineering History

Two BBC Scotland “Out of Doors” programmes may be of interest. In October, “100 years of BBC Aberdeen” were celebrated, with one section (at about 41 mins) of the programme ([www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0gl9x7x](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0gl9x7x)) about the SMC, the LSCC and the Cairngorm Club. And a December programme ([www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hlbr8y](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0hlbr8y)) was all about “bothy culture”, with mentions (from about 5 mins onwards) of the “secret” Glen Slugain howff, Bob Scott’s, the Red House, and the Tarf bothy.

## **Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS)**

The OATS Annual Review 2022-23 (see OATS website) records that:

- The It's Up To Us campaign has so far raised over £200,000, including £24,000 from clubs (£5000 from the Cairngorm Club)
- The first project, on An Teallach, will cost around £300,000, and involve a "full build" low down, shorter stretches in the middle, and 2km or so of "light touch" higher up.
- Upland path volunteering in 2023 involved 65 volunteers (29% female), 30 sessions (averaging 6 per session), and 137 volunteer days.
- The new car park at Loch Moraig on Beinn a' Ghlo was opened in June 2023; some of the income will go towards the volunteering programme.
- Murray Swapp, a NE-based OATS staffer since 2006, moved to a lead access role within Aberdeenshire Council in March 2023.

## **Access Officer Activity**

Casework by the Cairngorms National Park Authority's two Access Officers showed the following pattern:

Number of cases (not all equally burdensome, of course): 192 (2019), 215 (2020), 259 (2021), 194 (2022), the last total comprising: Access Rights 43, Forestry Consultation 37, Planning Consultation 33, Path Maintenance 23, followed by Other (20), Tourism (14), Signage (12), Obstruction (10), Land Ownership (2) and Funding (0).

Officer comments include:

- "a greater number of visitors to the National Park means a concurrently higher probability of access related problems arising and thence being reported. There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest the number of campervans and mobile homes being used has seen a sustained increase since the pre-pandemic period and this persists."
- "Planning and forestry consultations saw a reduction over the period while 'funding' casework dropped out as a consequence of AECS Improving Public Access grant opportunities being withdrawn by SG".
- "As of the current calendar year [i.e. 2023] we have modified the monitoring approach adopted ... to focus primarily on matters pertaining to the delivery of statutory consultations (forestry and planning) and the ... duty to uphold access rights. In effect this means monitoring and reporting ... will be focussed on instances where obstructions to access rights are the subject".
- In Aberdeenshire (outside the National Park), "the first priority for the [Access Officers] is to prioritise and reduce the access case backlog", and the Chair (Chris York) "saw a need to improve peoples' knowledge of core paths and of the condition of the paths".

## Rain and Wind

Those who recall a wee bit of rain last autumn may be interested in some figures from a Met Office report on Storm Babet (18-21 October):

- The wettest day of this period was 19 October, with exceptional daily totals including 168.4mm at Waterside, Glen Esk and 151.6mm at Invermark Bridge (both in Angus) and 131.8mm at Charr (Kincardineshire)
- Rainfall totals inland were 2 to 4 times higher in the hills than on the coast: for example 51.0mm at Inverbervie (same as Aberdeen) compared to 184.8mm at Charr, some 25km inland.
- Records in Scotland (mostly on the 19<sup>th</sup>) included 129.5mm at Glensaugh (49 years) and 117.8mm at Durris (34 years).
- Wind speeds were also notable, e.g. a gust of 77mph at Inverbervie, and one of 121mph at Cairngorm Summit. In addition, high speeds were sustained for unusually long periods.

## Do You Have a Satellite Communications Device?

A number of Club members have a satellite comms device such as the Garmin InReach, which if set up in advance can be handy to communicate between parties on Club trips, and of course in the event of an emergency. If you are on a Club trip and have one, please let the Meet Organiser know before starting. Mike Duguid has posted some tips on the Forum (in News and Banter, General Banter), and can answer questions about these devices if anybody is interested in getting one, and what options are available.

## Multi-day Trips 2024

A successful three day winter trip, in the Cairngorms finished on 11 January 24. The next multi-day trip will be either 10 - 13 or 24 - 27 May (Friday to Monday). It focuses on exploring remote corries on the North/East sides of Ben Avon. Start Corgarff am Friday, finish Keiloch pm Monday.

Critical zoom planning meeting 8.15pm for 20 minutes on Thursday 7 March 2024. For more information, please contact Guy by email at [meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk).

## Anyone for a Wild Camping 'Taster'?

There is ambition to share an introductory experience of "camping" suitable for those who wish to learn with others before enjoying a remote and wild camp by themselves. This could take place in October 2024 and/or January 2025. More information in the May 2024 newsletter. For further information now, please contact Guy Bromby by email at [meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk) or Mike Duguid at [vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk).

# Club Office-Bearers and Other Positions

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Hon. President</b>                       | Robbie Middleton<br>(honpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk) |
| <b>President</b>                            | Helen Russell<br>(ccpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk)     |
| <b>Vice-President</b>                       | Ivan Hiscox<br>(vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)                |
| <b>Vice-President</b>                       | Mike Duguid<br>(vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk)               |
| <b>Club Secretary &amp; Librarian</b>       | Ken Thomson<br>(secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)         |
| <b>Treasurer &amp; Membership Secretary</b> | Donald Thomas<br>(treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk)       |
| <b>Communications Secretary</b>             | Colin Brown<br>(newsletter@cairngormclub.org.uk)        |
| <b>Huts Custodian</b>                       | Kees Witte<br>(huts@cairngormclub.org.uk)               |
| <b>Muir Booking Secretary</b>               | Forbes McPherson<br>(muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk) |
| <b>Day Meets Secretary</b>                  | Craig Thomson<br>(day@cairngormclub.org.uk)             |
| <b>Weekend Meets Secretary</b>              | Helen Russell<br>(weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)         |
| <b>Acting Climbing Secretary</b>            | Stuart Dick<br>(climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)             |
| <b>Social Activities Secretary</b>          | Eilidh Scobbie<br>(social@cairngormclub.org.uk)         |
| <b>Midweek Walks Coordinator</b>            | Joyce Ritchie (mww@cairngormclub.org.uk)                |
| <b>Journal Editor</b>                       | Jean Robinson<br>(journal@cairngormclub.org.uk)         |
| <b>Training Coordinator</b>                 | Garry Wardrope<br>(training@cairngormclub.org.uk)       |
| <b>Other Committee Members</b>              |   |
| Kolbjorn Aksenvoll                          | (ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| Michael Culley                              | (ctte4@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| Vay Mutch                                   | (ctte5@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| Will Ellwood                                | (ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| Brian Purves                                | (ctte8@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |
| Esperanza Martin                            | (ctte9@cairngormclub.org.uk)                            |