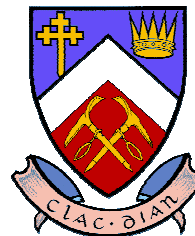


## Club Office-Bearers and Other Positions

<b>Hon. President</b>	Ruth Payne,
<b>President</b>	Marj Ewan (ccpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Vice-President</b>	Joyce Ritchie (vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Vice-President</b>	Garry Wardrope (vp2@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Club Secretary &amp; Librarian</b>	Ken Thomson (secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Treasurer &amp; Membership Secretary</b>	Derek B Pinches (treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Communications Secretary</b>	Colin Brown (newsletter@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Huts Custodian</b>	Kees Witte, (huts@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Muir Booking Secretary</b>	David Kirk (muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Day Meets Secretary</b>	Garry Wardrope (day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Weekend Meets Secretary</b>	Sue Chalmers (weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Climbing Secretary</b>	Rod Campbell (climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Social Activities Secretary</b>	Eilidh Scobbie (social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Midweek Walks Coordinator</b>	Joyce Ritchie (vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Journal Editor</b>	Jean Robinson (journal@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Training Coordinator</b>	Garry Wardrope (day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>Other Committee Members</b>	
Debbie Fielding	(ctte5@cairngormclub.org.uk)
James Hirst	(ctte4@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Ivan Hiscox	(ctte12@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Izy Kirkaldy	(ctte10@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Mark Peel	(ctte11@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Adrian Scott	(ctte17@cairngormclub.org.uk)
Jamie Vince	(ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Cairngorm Club

February 2020



*The Cairngorm Club*

*Established 1887*

Registered Charity  
Number - SC047567

### Inside this issue:

<b>Clachnaben Update</b>	3
<b>Club Dinner</b>	3
<b>Munro Completion</b>	4
<b>Indoor Meets</b>	4
<b>Muir Cottage</b>	5
<b>Forestry Memories</b>	6
<b>Subscriptions</b>	6
<b>Day Meets</b>	7
<b>Calendar of Events</b>	8/9
<b>Weekend Meets</b>	10
<b>Training</b>	11
<b>MWW - The West Island Way</b>	11
<b>Lunch &amp; Danders</b>	12
<b>Membership News</b>	13
<b>Quoich Bridge</b>	13
<b>Future Meets</b>	14
<b>Maryculter Woods</b>	15

Editor Colin Brown

# Clac Dian

The Newsletter of the Cairngorm Club

## Club & Mountaineering Scotland AGMs 2019

Once again, the Club AGM passed off peaceably – and this time in the plush environment of the Doubletree beachside hotel instead of the Grammar School FP Club basement. The draft minutes (now on the Forum, or available from the Secretary) record the usual reports on meets and other activities, and the re-appointment of office-bearers *en masse*. Honorary memberships were conferred on Peter Aikman, Jack Connell and Evelyn Massie. The Treasurer was once again forced to report an embarrassingly large bank balance on 30 September 2019, after an annual surplus of £15,000 including £10,000 of Lottery funding destined for the Clachnaben path repairs (see elsewhere in this Newsletter). However, membership was again down, by about 20, to 361. Club sub rates were left unchanged, but subject to a £2 rise in the Mountaineering Scotland affiliation add-on. AOCB discussion focussed mostly on how the Club's vote (of 40) should be wielded at the late-November MS AGM/EGM (see below), but took in a couple of Muir management items, plus husband-wife copies of the MS magazine!

The Mountaineering Scotland AGM at Glenmore was attended by at least 4 Club members, who heard the MS Board Directors reporting on a wide range of matters such as conservation, access, MS finances and climbing. The AGM voted for the £2 rise in Club member affiliation fees to cope with a rise in insurance and other costs, and elected three new Directors including the incoming MS President Brian Shackleton, of the SMC.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

As part of a voting system change, an immediately following EGM awarded the Club about 300 votes instead of the previous 40, as well as approving a number of company law amendments. The afternoon was spent in workshops, including one on club hut management.

### Clachnaben Footpath Update

Following the Club's successful application to the National Lottery Community Fund we received £9945 for work on the Clachnaben main path. The priority work was to reinstate the path around a fallen tree and to remove metal pins that had been placed to retain logs at the side of the path twenty years ago. Over time the path surface had spread and the pins were in the area walked on, forming a trip hazard, especially in poor light. Additional funding towards removal of the pins was provided by a small grant from Ramblers Scotland.

The Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (formerly UDAT) managed a tendering process based on the survey they had carried out for us. The successful contractor was ACT Heritage of Daviot. The team were on site for two separate weeks in December 2019 when other work sites around Scotland were under snow. They removed 110 24-inch pins (twice the number expected), reinstating the path in each location. They constructed two lengths of aggregate path with side drains at boggy sections and also improved the drainage at two further locations. The work was of a high standard when seen by Keith Mackey from OATS and myself.

At the time, we discussed what further work would be possible with additional funding. Work to improve wet and boggy sections is likely to go ahead later in January provided there is not snow at a low level. There is also need for some drain clearance and that will be done later in the year by volunteers from the Club and the local John Muir Trust group - look out for a call for volunteers. Like any mountain footpath, ongoing maintenance will be required to keep the path in good condition.

Donald Thomas

### A Forgotten Club Tradition? - from the CC Journal no. 74

"During the evening [of the New Year Meet, 1933, at Braemar] Miss E. McCoss, the Queen of the Club for 1933, was crowned. Preceded by a piper, she was borne shoulder-high into the room on ice-axes by the four most handsome members of the Club. The usual crown of stag-moss was placed on her head. The new Queen suitably acknowledged the honour and claimed the first dance with Mr. Parker."

The current Social Meets Secretary will be happy to consider nominations (including self-nominations) for any of these positions, including that of stag-moss supplier.

### Maryculter Woods Walk

On 2 January, about 20 members recovered from their Hogmanays by exploring these Woods, which have been managed by a local community Woodlands Trust for a few years. There is now a fine network of paths around and through the trees, reachable from several car parks including the large one behind the church at Kirkton.

Local guides Kees and Hazel Witte provided not only copious information on various clearances, plantings and installations (see "insect hotel" below), but also soup, bread and cheese at their house after the exertions: many thanks to both!

See - <http://www.maryculterwoods.com/> for more information about the Trust.



### Power Lines

The electricity company SSEN is investing £15 million over the next 8 years to underground 90km of local (i.e. wooden-pole) overhead distribution lines in UK National Parks and other scenically important areas. More details at <https://www.ssen.co.uk/undergrounding>.

In November, a local consultation meeting was held in Ballater, to elicit nominations in Upper Deeside. This project is separate from the £500m VISTA scheme, administered by the energy regulator Ofgem, which is funding the undergrounding of 12 km of overhead lines, including 46 transmission towers, near Boat of Garten and Nethy Bridge.

## December Haddo Stroll

Thirteen Mid-Week Walkers enjoyed a gentle stroll around the grounds at Haddo Country Park in December. The rain held off and they even enjoyed some sunshine at lunchtime.

The walk was finished off with coffee and mince pies at Mrs Smith's restaurant. Thanks go to Marion White for organising the walk.

## Future Meets:

Further to the Day and Weekend Meets detailed on pages 8, 9 10 and 11, listed below are the meets organised for the rest of 2020:

### Weekends -

10 - 11 Jul (2 nights)	Steall Hut, Glen Nevis	Stuart Dick
8 - 9 Aug (2 nights)	Naismith Hut, Elphin	Joyce Ritchie
4 - 5 Sep (2 nights)	Tobermory YH, Mull	Esperanza Martin Gil
9 - 11 Oct (3 nights)	Rum Bunkhouse	Izy Kirkaldy
6 - 7 Nov (2 nights)	Mill Cottage, Glen Feshie	Debbie Fielding
4 - 5 Dec (2 nights)	Raeburn Hut, Laggan	Sue Chalmers

### Days -

25 Jul	The Stuic	Car	Craig Thomson
22 Aug	Faindouran	Car	Izy Kirkaldy
13 Sep	Cairngorm Traverse	Coach	Ivan Hiscox
25 Oct	Mayar & Dreish	Minibus	Colin Brown
22 Nov	Strathdon/Culardoch	Minibus	Ken Thomson
13 Dec	Schiehallion	Minibus	Debbie Fielding

## Wild Cats at Clashindarroch Forest

In response to a Scottish Parliament Question from Alexander Burnett MSP, the Minister Fergus Ewing reported the following measures taken in Clashindarroch Forest and Strathbogie (a Scottish Wildcat Action Priority Area), where the Club held a couple of meets in 2018/19:

- extensive camera trapping surveys
- camera traps and walk-over surveys on all operational sites, at potential den features, e.g. stone dykes, windblown trees or scrub
- avoidance of clear felling, thinning and site cultivation during March to June in areas where wildcat activity has been identified by camera or GPS collar tracking

PS: In November, the Strone capercaillie was reported as back at Glentannar.

## Mid-Week Walkers

### Who are we?

We are a friendly group who enjoy a 4-5 hour walk, usually on the last Thursday of each month.

### Where do we go?

Our varied programme takes in coastal and suburban walks, as well as visits to the hills and glens. Winter walks involve shorter drives and distances than the summer ones, but our destination is never more than 1.5 hours drive from Aberdeen. For anyone not rushing home there is usually a tearoom visit after each walk. We aim to be finished in time to get back to Aberdeen for mid to late afternoon.

### Interested?

Meet us at the designated meeting point for the walk just before 9 am to arrange car sharing, or make your way directly to the starting point of the walk.

Code	Location	GridRef
K	Kingswells Park and Ride (lower level)	868036
R	Riverside Drive (near Brig of Dee)	928036

The programme of walks can be found in the Club newsletter or on the web page, but for further details or to be added to the group mailing list please contact me, Joyce Ritchie, at [vp@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)

At Kingswells there are toilets and a waiting room.

<https://www.firstgroup.com/aberdeen>

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/about/north-scotland>

<https://www.aberdeenairport.com/transport-and-directions/buses-and-coaches>

## Cairngorm Club Dinner 2019

Some sixty-four club members and guests attended the Cairngorm Club Dinner on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, on the Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen. By all accounts an excellent evening was had, with good comradeship, good food and an excellent speaker in the form of the mountaineer, Stephen Venables. Stephen's talk was called "Thirty Years Voyaging to the Unclimbed Summits of Antarctica" – describing his adventures in Tierra del Fuego, South Georgia and Antarctica. He illustrated his talk with photographs of the fascinating wildlife, and adventurous sailing and climbing of these trips – including an entertaining video of skiing amongst the penguins.

For anyone who enjoyed the 2019 dinner, and for anyone who was sorry to have missed it, you could pencil into your 2020 diary Friday 20th November, as the likely date for the 2020 dinner.

## Munro Completion

The Club is delighted to congratulate Debbie Fielding on summing her 282<sup>nd</sup> Munro, Ben More on Mull, on 5 October 2019.

After a coastal camp at Salen, the ascent was made, via the fine Beinn Fhada ridge and A' Chioch peak, in "interesting" conditions, viz. a howling south-west gale which might have dissuaded folk on a less important mission.

At the summit, a shelter permitted the traditional presentation of a Club quaich to Debbie, and indeed its use with some surprising liquid(s), before a descent was made via the tourist route.

## Indoor Meets—Winter 2019/20

This winter, the Club's Indoor Meets and AGM will all take place at the Doubletree by Hilton on the Beach Boulevard (the venue used for recent Club Dinners). Costs for attendance will be £3 for members, £5 for non-members.

The programme for the rest of the winter will be -

- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Club Member and multiple Munro Compleatist, Robin Howie "Reminiscences"
- Wednesday 4th March – Carol Ritchie "Europarc and Sustainable Tourism"

All start at 7.30pm and, as before, tea and coffee will be provided after the talk. There are good parking facilities at the venue, but access by public transport is less easy. Eilidh is anxious that this won't stop our members coming, so if anyone would benefit from getting a lift there, can you contact Eilidh by email at [social@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:social@cairnngormclub.org.uk) and she will try to facilitate that.

## Club Member Achievements

On the Club website there is a page that lists Club member achievements - <http://www.cairnngormclub.org.uk/miscellaneous/achievements/achievements.htm>. If you have completed your Munros, Corbetts etc, your name, and a picture if you have one, can be added to the list. Please forward any relevant information to [newsletter@cairnngormclub.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cairnngormclub.org.uk).

## Scott Brooks

Last year Scott Brooks offered his services to Club members, for free, while he was working towards his MIA. Several members climbed with Scott and those who spent time with him were impressed by his knowledge of climbing and his skills as an instructor. Scott has now gained his MIA. If any member is interested in climbing with Scott, he can be contacted at [scott.mountainsandmor@gmail.com](mailto:scott.mountainsandmor@gmail.com).

## Membership News

The Club is sorry to hear of the death of the following members

Mike Fellowes	Ordinary Member since 1998
Sandy Reid	Ordinary Member since 1949
Ruth Ward	Ordinary Member since 1973
Eddie Martin	Ordinary Member since 1961
Elizabeth Hardy	Ordinary Member since 1968

The following new members have been admitted since the last newsletter:

Gill Stephens	Strathdon	Ordinary
David Cruickshank	Aberdeen	Associate
David Geddie	Aberdeen	Associate
Fiona Chalmers	Forres	Associate
Diarmid Macalister-Hall	Aberdeen	Ordinary

## Vehicle Tracks near Derry Lodge

Walkers in the NTS Mar Lodge Estate will have noted some unsightly tracks which have appeared near several footpaths, e.g. west of the Glen Derry path just beyond the dam-site bridge, and beyond the trees on the path towards Robbers' Copse. As tree regeneration gets underway in these areas, the Estate's keepers have been using vehicles to cull deer which have been encroaching from neighbouring estates. About 900 head were culled last winter (the close season for stags), mostly in or near the dark hours, with carcasses removed to reduce public disquiet. These considerations have led to vehicle use despite the ground-level and landscape damage that they cause, although the Estate would be delighted to find an alternative solution.

## More River Trials

Following the previous Newsletter entry about putting the lower legs and feet of culled deer into the River Muick, Large Woody Debris (LWD) trials are being carried out on the Gelder and Gairn, whereby dead trees etc. have been placed along the riverbanks to create more supportive habitats for fish and invertebrates. A short video is at [www.riverdee.org.uk/news/2018/large-woody-debris-lwd-on-the-dee-catchment](http://www.riverdee.org.uk/news/2018/large-woody-debris-lwd-on-the-dee-catchment).

## Quoich Re-Bridged (again)

The car park west of the Quoich has re-opened following completion of the new bridge to Allanaquoich: this restores direct access to several popular walking routes in the area. The new bridge is open to pedestrians, cyclists and equestrian visitors while vehicle access is for estate use only. Upstream at the Linn of Quoich, the footbridge funded by the Club from the Willie Robb bequest is of course still open - and looking a bit more weathered!



## Munroist List Clerk

To register a completion of a round of the Munros, of the Tops, Furths, Corbetts, Grahams or Donalds, members should contact Alison Coull who is the "Clerk of the List" for the SMC.

Please contact her at -  
munroclerk@smc.org.uk

Alison Coull  
258/1 Ferry Road  
Edinburgh  
EH5 3AN

## DISCOUNTS

*Cotswold - Blacks  
Craigdon Sports  
Nevisport*

*Hilltrek - Aboyne  
Climbing - Ballater*

All the above shops offer discounts to Club members on production of a current membership card

TISO discount nights 6.30 to 8.30 pm, quarterly.

## Payments to the Club

The Club bank details are: Sort Code 831531; Account no. 00129748.

So that the payment can be allocated to the right place, please use what the payment is for as the reference e.g., "Traverse" or "Membership". There is no need to include your name. Note that the reference field is limited to 18 characters including blanks.

## Club Forum

If you are not already a member, why not register for the Club Forum? You can register at - <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cairngormclub/index.php>.



## Lunch & Danders

The next Lunch and Dander will be on Friday 21st February, 2020, meeting at Haddo House at 10:30am, with lunch at the Aberdeen Arms, Tarves, at 12:30pm.

Please advise Ruth Payne by Wednesday 19th February if you would like to join the lunch gathering.

Another two Lunch & Danders have been planned, with the first on Friday 17th April, meeting at the east car park, Brimmond Hill at 10:30am, with lunch at the Brimmond Bistro at 12:30pm.

The second will be on Tuesday 16th June, meeting at Stonehaven Harbour at 10:30am, with lunch at the Ship Inn, Stonehaven, at 12:30pm.

Please advise Ruth by Wednesday 15th April, and Sunday 14th June, respectively, if you would like to join the lunch gatherings.

## Muir Cottage

Muir has seen a steady stream of visitors. The joining instructions have recently been updated and are posted on the website (link below). Please read these instructions as there some changes. As cheques are phased out, bank transfers should be used (Sort Code 831531, Account no. 00129748, and identify the sender name and/or Muir date).

In order to keep Muir running smoothly can users please let me know immediately when something has gone wrong or has broken by sending me an email with a picture of what requires repairing or replacing, this will save me guessing and possibly an extra trip to Muir.

One or two compact easy chairs are wanted for Muir. If you have one, or two, please contact me.

Preparations have started for the next work weekend which is scheduled from the 14th of May to the 17th of May. Why not join the work party if you have never been on one, it's great fun. You will get to know other club members and learn how Muir works and what's involved to run your Club hut. To reserve your free bed please contact Kees at [huts@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:huts@cairngormclub.org.uk).

All booking information is on the web at <http://www.cairngormclub.org.uk/muircottage/muircottage.htm> or you can contact David Kirk at [muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Kees Witte, Hut Custodian

## NTS Cards

As a member of the National Trust for Scotland, the Club holds 15 NTS cards which allow free access and parking to NTS properties (and NT ones in England and Wales) for Club members and their guests. To borrow for a week or two, please contact the Secretary (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 12 noon.

**Aberdeen Physiotherapy - 01224 626266**

## Forestry Memories

The Forestry Memories Image Library is a manifestation of the partnership between the University of the Highlands and Islands Centre for History, Scottish Forestry, and the Scottish Forestry Trust, based on a wider research project into the social history of forestry in Scotland in the twentieth century. The Forestry Memories Image Library contains pictures of interest to those who may work or have worked in the Forestry Industries in Scotland. Images can be viewed by year, by group or by contributor, or you can use the simple search at the top of this page. Just put in something like "chainsaw" or the name of a place "Fort Augustus" to get some results.

The website can be found at <https://www.forestry-memories.org.uk>.

See the 'About' button at bottom of the Home page for more information about the project.

## Path Repair in the National Parks

The five-year The Mountains and The People project, operated by the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (until lately from their Aboyne office), has been spending £6.4 million on paths in the two Scottish National Parks, but comes to an end in summer 2020. Thereafter, TMTP-type activities will be incorporated into the existing volunteer programmes of both Parks, who will organise days and bookings for work such as ditch clearance, ring-barking and clearance of unwanted spruce, fence marking and peatland restoration.

### CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the year 2019/20 became due on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

For those paying by Direct Debit this was collected automatically on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Others should send their subscriptions to Derek Pinches, the Club Treasurer.

Cairngorm Club Subscription rates for 2019/20 are as follows:

	Club	MCoFS	Total
Full Rate	£13.00	£16.25	£29.25
Reduced Rate	£6.50	£16.25	£22.75

The reduced rate above is available for members who, on 1st October, are aged 65 or over, or under 21; or under 25 and still in full-time education; or who are normally resident and working more than 80km from Aberdeen.

First subscriptions are only part of a full year's subscription, based on when admission occurred within the Club year.

## Training

### Winter Skills

We will be organising an instructor to coincide with the February weekend meet (7 - 8 Feb 2020). As usual, 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, winter navigation and avalanche awareness. With costs heavily subsidised by the Club (c. £40 for the two days) this is a great value and popular course.

### First Aid

The Club regularly organises accredited First Aid Courses. The next course will be organised when we have enough folk interested – so please register if you are. To book or register your interest in any of the above activities, please contact Garry Wardrope by email at [day@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairngormclub.org.uk) (full contact details on the back page).

## "The West Island Way" - Mid-Week Walking Trip April 20-23, 2020

On April 20th a number of club members are heading to the Isle of Bute to walk some or all of the West Island Way. The West Island Way, a varied, scenic circuit of the island of Bute. The 45 km route is way marked and can be covered in 2 longer days or 3 shorter days of walking. Alternatively you can choose to tackle a shorter section of it. Using public transport it is possible to cover all sections of the route from the base in Rothesay.

For those not wishing to walk, there is a range of things to see and do in Rothesay such as Rothesay Castle, Ardenraig Gardens which features a walled garden and an exotic aviary. The marvellous Mount Stuart House & Gardens (pictured) are a must, and Ascog Fernery is a beautiful garden with specimen planting and a fernery.

Rothesay itself boasts numerous cafes, a museum and a cinema. The plan is to stay at the Glenburn Hotel. This is a cheap and cheerful Shearings Coach company partner hotel. Dinner is a 3 course meal and a vegetarian option is available.

Accommodation costs are as follows:

3 nights D.B&B double is from £216 and D.B&B single is from £160

Want an extra night? A 4 night package is from £288 D.B&B for a double & from £210 D.B&B for a single.

2 and 5 night packages are also available (see <https://www.shearings.com/destinations/rothesay>)

If you would like more information, please contact Joyce Ritche, by email at [vp@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:vp@cairngormclub.org.uk).

Please note: bookings are not confirmed until payment is made to the Club.



### 7 - 8 Feb, Rothiemurchus Lodge, Glenmore (2 nights)

Rothiemurchus Lodge at Glenmore is a new venue for the Club. This location is ideal for winter walking, climbing or ski-ing in the northern Cairngorms. The Clubs annual winter skills training will also be held at this weekend. Accommodation and the winter skills course need to be booked separately. To book accommodation, contact Jamie Vince by email at [ctte3@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte3@cairnformclub.org.uk), and Garry Wardrope at [day@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairnformclub.org.uk) to book the course.

### 13 - 14 Mar, Corran Bunkhouse (2 nights)

Corran Bunkhouse is a firm favourite with the club: very comfortable accommodation run by friendly owners in an area packed with great hills. Glen Nevis, Glencoe and Ardnamurchan are all easily accessible from here for walking and the first two for ski-ing. To book, contact Helen Russell by email at [meetorganiser6@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser6@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### 3 - 4 Apr, Sanachan Bunkhouse Log Cabins, Kishorn (2 nights)

Sanachan Bunkhouse has a brand new 12-bunk log cabin and is a new venue for the Club. The Torridon, Applecross and Lochcarron hills are all easily accessible from here. It's handily situated for the Kishorn Seafood Bar too! To book, contact Evi Szczeblewska by email at [meetorganiser7@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser7@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### 1 - 3 May, Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric (3 nights)

Strawberry Cottage is the club hut of An Teallach MC. Situated in the heart of Glen Affric, the hut has been refurbished in recent years with solar-powered lighting, gas cooker and a wood-burning stove. The hut retains its unique character and is accessible on foot, 7 km from the road end at the east end of Loch Affric. Two cars may be taken in and could carry some supplies. To book, contact Alison Brown by email at [meetorganiser8@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser8@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### 5 - 6 Jun, CIC Hut, Ben Nevis (2 nights)

Arguably the only alpine-style mountain hut in the UK, the CIC hut is situated at about 700m, at the foot of the North Face of the Ben, and is most easily approached on foot from the Forestry Commission's North Face car park near Torlundy (approx 7 km). The hut is ideally situated for Carn Mor Dearg, Ben Nevis and of course for the North Face itself. It is a unique location and the Club is fortunate to have exclusive use of the hut for this weekend. To book, contact Mark Peel by email at [ctte11@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte11@cairnformclub.org.uk).

**Day 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** (departure time; map sheet; departure point; organiser contact details)

**Weekend Meets** (organiser; telephone number; email contact)

**Climbing (Summer)** (low or high water, organiser; contact details)

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

Meets generally leave Aberdeen at 7am (sharp!); departure times and cost are listed in the centrefold 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 Spring 2020.

More details are at [www.cairnformclub.org.uk/clubactivities/clubactivities.htm](http://www.cairnformclub.org.uk/clubactivities/clubactivities.htm).

### February 22, Carn A'Gheoidh (Saturday)

This minibus meet will drop off in Glenshee (or en route thereto), and pick up at the Spittal, so here are plenty of other options for this meet. You could even take a gentle stroll back to Braemar for coffee and cakes. To book, contact Garry Wardrope by email at [day@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### March 21/22, Snow Hole - Winter Overnighter (Saturday/Sunday)

On this regular winter meet we plan to overnight somewhere high in the Cairngorm Mountains, though where will depend on the snow if any. This is a car meet with departure time and location agreed by those attending. To register an interest, or book, contact Guy Bromby by email at [meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### April 19, Dubh Loch Circuit (Sunday)

This minibus will drop off and pick up at the Glen Muick Car Park. Weather permitting the President's Party will ascend to the Dubh Loch then up onto the plateau taking in either Broad Cairn, or Cairn Bannoch and Broad Cairn, returning via Sandy's hut/stable to the loch-side and back to the start point. Other options are available with drop-offs en-route, or how about a stroll around the loch or a walk back to Ballater? To book, contact Derek Beverley by email at [meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### May 24, Braeriach/Einich (Sunday)

The minibus will drop-off and pick up at Colymbridge. The current plan is for the President's Party to ascend Braeriach via the Lairig Ghru path and Sron na Lairig possibly returning down Glen Einich. Other options in the area are available: just let the organiser know on the day where you are to be dropped off and picked up. To book, contact Garry Wardrope by email at [day@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### June 20/21, Mamores Overnighter (Saturday/Sunday)

This year's overnigher will be a midsummer traverse of the Mamores. More information will be available on the website, Forum, and by email nearer the time. The minibus will leave Aberdeen on Saturday morning and will be returning on Sunday afternoon/evening. To book, contact Ivan Hiscox by email at [ctte12@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte12@cairnformclub.org.uk).

**January 2020**

28	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
30	Thur	MWW	Hazlehead to Kingswells via Maidencraig and the Bucks Burn (9.30am; 38; Hazlehead Park car park; Lydia Thomson)

**February**

4	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
5	Wed	Indoor	Robin Howie - Reminiscences (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Fri	Weekend	Karn House, Aviemore (Jamie Vince; cte3@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
18	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
21	Fri	Lunch & Dander	Meet at Haddo House at 10:30am with lunch at the Aberdeen Arms, Tarves at 12:30. (Ruth Payne)
22	Sat	Day Meet	Carn A'Gheoidh (7am; 43; 139782 - 110699; 6.5hrs; £12.50; minibus; Garry Wardrope; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
25	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
27	Thur	MWW	A Coastal Walk - The Bullers of Buchan (9am; 30; K; Ian Murray)

**March**

3	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
4	Wed	Indoor	Carol Ritchie - Scotland's National Parks - a view from Europe (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
13	Fri	Weekend	Corran Bunkhouse, Onich (Helen Russell; meetorganiser6@cairngormclub.org.uk)
17	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
21	Sat	Day Meet	Snowholing in the Cairngorms (Guy Bromby; meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk)
24	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
26	Thur	MWW	Glen Gairn and the Manses of Tullochmacarrick and Dalfad (Richard Frimston)
31	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

**April**

3	Fri	Weekend	Sanachan Bunkhouse Log Cabin, Kishorn (Evi Szczepiewska; meetorganiser7@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing season begins (See Website and Facebook for more details of locations (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
14	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Sun	Day	Dubh Loch circuit (7am; 44; 311852; 7hrs; £12.50; minibus; Derek Beverley; meetorganiser16@cairngormclub.org.uk)
21	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
28	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
30	Thur	MWW	Mortlich and Surrounding Area (Joyce Ritchie; vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)

**May**

1	Fri	Weekend	Strawberry Cottage (Alison Brown; meetorganiser8@cairngormclub.org.uk)
5	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
12	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
24	Sun	Day	Braeriach/Einich (7am; 36; 957097; 8hrs; £12.50; minibus; Garry Wardrope; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
26	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
28	Thur	MWW	Tom's Cairn and Slewdrum Forest (Ken Thomson; secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)

**June**

2	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
5	Fri	Weekend	CIC Hut, Ben Nevis (Mark Peel; cte11@cairngormclub.org.uk)
9	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing (Rod Campbell; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)