

Club Office-Bearers and Other Positions

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

June 2023



The Cairngorm Club

Established 1887

Registered Charity
Number - SC047567

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Editor Colin Brown



RSPB Abernethy

In April 2023, Club members were invited to visit the RSPB reserve at Abernethy, which includes the whole of the Loch Avon basin as well as Strathnethy: the long-term RSPB aim is to create the largest area of native woodland in Britain, with its ornithological benefits. About a dozen of us, including two NEMT members, met at Forest Lodge - built in 1883, used by the Norwegians during the Second World War, and now the largest all-timber dwelling house in Scotland. There, Uwe Stoneman, the Senior Site Manager, gave us an interesting talk about himself, the Lodge, and RSPB activities on the estate. The ever-increasing number of activities being undertaken by the public on RSPB land, and land reform pressures, are encouraging RSPB to take a more “community engagement” line.

After the talk, we went out – in warm spring sunshine – on a 3-hour circular walk via Rynettin, stopping occasionally for points of interest to be pointed out by Uwe, and discussed by the group. Most of the conversation focussed on trees, deer and indeed cattle, which the RSPB are introducing in places within the forest, to see what effects they have on shrubs and seedlings – primarily of course to benefit rare species such as capercaillie and the crested tit. We heard some interesting tales, such as winching down trees to mimic the effects of storm windthrow, peat restoration on the hills east of

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Bynack More, and the pros and cons of planting rather than waiting for natural regeneration.

Since the visit, Uwe has been in touch with the following websites:

nethybridge.com/abernethy-vision/ - the Club (and NEMT) are seen as “potentially relevant communities of place and therefore part of the process” of RSPB consultation;

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wE5LjFY3od8 – a short video about the RSPB mountain rangers;

www.hie.co.uk/media/10744/cairngorm-mountain-masterplan_2021.pdf - including the proposed ‘evolution of Section 50’ (which governs non-skier egress from the top of the funicular).

Uwe “would be interested to understand how you and your members feel about these topics” and others such as climate change impacts on species such as dotterel, snow bunting, ptarmigan and mountain hare, and erosion on and off mountain paths. The Committee will no doubt consider how the Club should respond to this invitation – almost certainly in coordination with NEMT.



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The Council have established a new gate at the roadside, and we plan to erect a small plaque on the new bridge handrail.



Capercaillie

An interesting NEMT talk in April was given by Carolyn Robertson, who manages the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project. From a UK population of around 20,000 in 1980, the number of birds has fallen to an estimated 542 today, mostly in the Cairngorms, with populations on Speyside, Deeside and in Atholl. The greatest issues are predation (e.g. by foxes, crows, pine marten and badgers) and recreation (especially with dogs), but bad weather (i.e. cold and wet), loss of habitat (e.g. forest bogs) and fence-strike also do not help. The Project has carried out several studies and sub-projects (including DNA testing of feathers, for international comparison of genetic diversity) and signage (especially for mountain bikers). See more at cairngormscapercaillie.scot. The Project expires soon, but it is hoped to maintain funding and interest, e.g. via a Capercaillie Emergency Plan, especially if numbers continue to fall.

Water of Unich Footbridge Plaqued!

On 12 May, a small plaque was fixed to the handrail of this bridge, which lies above the Falls of Unich and Damph beyond Loch Lee in the North Esk glen, to commemorate the fact that the Club paid half the cost of its recent repair by Dalhousie Estates. On the same trip, a cuckoo, two adders, a huge swathe of primroses, many hares and grouse, a golden plover, and a herd of 100-odd deer were seen (or heard!).



Trees in the Hills

The charity Reforesting Scotland (RS) is running a Mountain Birch Project, aimed at locating trees that once formed a habitat now largely vanished from Scotland due to grazing pressures. RS want to know about trees - not only mountain birch, but also rowan, bird cherry and aspen - at altitudes roughly 600-850m, i.e. above the pinewood level. Reports, with grid ref., photos, etc., can be made via the form available at the following website, where more details of the project, and several relevant videos, can also be viewed: reforestingscotland.org/portfolio/mountain-birch-project.

Gordon Way Repairs

The work funded by the Club on the Gordon Way as it meets the B992 road up Glen Brindy north of Alford was completed very quickly in February 2023. It comprises new steps down from the public road, new boardwalk over about 12m of very boggy ground just beyond, and a new footbridge some 100m further east. We have also done a little gorse-bashing further east, to keep the path clear until more open ground and the forest higher up.

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Lake District Visit

In the years that I have been editing the Club Newsletter I have encouraged the submission of 'articles' (not of Journal length) by members and have had limited success. It was therefore heartening to receive the following from George Henderson, a new member who joined the Club in 2022. I think you will agree that it is good to get something different for the Newsletter and I thank George for his contribution. If this inspires you, then get your text into an email and send them to me, Colin Brown, at newsletter@cairngormclub.org.uk, for consideration for the next edition.

The Lake District can be a bit like marmite – you love it or you hate it! Some can't get enough of the picture postcard views, towering mountains and beautiful lakes. Others despair at the number of people, the narrow lanes and difficult and costly parking. Personally, I enjoy the nice paths up the hills, the pretty views and the likelihood of a Pub at the end of your walk! Choosing the quieter places to visit and avoiding holiday periods has generally provided excellent visits to the area.

The connection of the Cairngorm Club with 'Kindred Clubs' allowed me a midweek trip to the wonderful Old School in Grange near Keswick, run by the Climbers Club. This impressive old building allows a comfortable stay at the princely price of £9.50 per night. I had good company with friends who live in England and have an encyclopedic knowledge of the area. Another English friend is currently climbing the Munros and a careless comment was made one evening, some time ago, over a glass of malt that I would finish the Wainwrights before he would finish the Munros! Game on!

My introduction to the Lakes was a visit 41 years ago, climbing the Old Man of Conistone and Scafell, our first Wainwrights! Since then, we've visited quite a few times, enjoying the mountains and more gentle hills. My visit to Grange saw me move over halfway towards the Wainwright total, so I'm going to have to improve my hit rate somewhat. The recent trip covered 21 different Wainwrights, each with their own charm and most climbed without seeing another soul. I had great fun with good company and would recommend members seek out Kindred Club Huts, wherever they lie!

Returning home, I took the opportunity to visit Bannockburn, free, courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland cards provided by the Cairngorm Club – thanks Ken. My loins are duly girded for the battle ahead – Wainwrights V Munros. If anyone fancies a trip South, let me know – I don't have another 41 years to finish the Wainwrights!

(See over for pictures from George's trip)



Old School, Grange



Derwent Water from Walla Crag

Training

First Aid Training

A well-received one-day course took place in April. Further courses will be organised where there is demand. Please let me know if you are interested - Garry Wardrope by email at day@cairngormclub.org.uk.

The Club supports other training such as Mountain Leader, Navigation and Rock Climbing by providing grants to members. Applications should be made to the Treasurer by email at treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk.

Snow in Summer 2022

All snow disappeared from Scotland last summer, after a very mild winter and spring, with warm weather thereafter. On 20 August 2022, only 10 patches on 4 hills could be seen; the Pinnacles and Sphinx patches on Braeriach disappeared completely on or about 10 September (when the last on Ben Nevis also went) and 6 October respectively. There was then a 43-day gap until new, lasting falls arrived: the longest gap ever recorded. This is the seventh time that all snow patches have gone since reliable records were started in the mid-1840s, i.e. in 1933, 1959, 1996, 2003, 2006, 2017 and 2022. See www.facebook.com/groups/snowpatchesscotland.

A Cairngorms Concerto

In 2015-16, the well-known Scottish composer Sally Beamish wrote a piano concerto, "Hill Stanzas", based on chapters in Nan Shepherd's book "The Living Mountain". Its four movements are: Water, Sleep, Glamourie ("enchantment"), and the Tailors' Stone (in the Lairig Ghru). The piece can be heard at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmJPVQVwxNI. Thanks to Club member Graham Watt for this information.

Club Member Achievements

On the Club website there is a page that lists Club member achievements - <http://www.cairngormclub.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@cairngormclub.org.uk.

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).

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

Club Communications - Google Group

The Club uses Google Groups to distribute official communications from the Club and for general communications by members. All members of the list can post to all other members. Typical use of the list is to organize ad-hoc meets and social meetings, selling/buying gear etc.

You can subscribe/unsubscribe to/from the lists simply by emailing the list owner at comms@cairngormclub.org.uk from the email account you wish to use, to subscribe, or the one that is registered, to unsubscribe.

Once subscribed, members can post messages by emailing cairngorm-club@googlegroups.com.

Also contact comms@cairngormclub.org.uk if you have any questions about the list. The list owner cannot change the email address under which you have subscribed, only delete it and add the new one.

George Fowlie RIP

George became a Club member in 1992, and was a regular on Day Meets until a stroke in 2009. An ex merchant seaman who latterly worked in the food processing industry, he died in March at the Persley Castle Care Home, and has left a legacy of £1000 to the Club.

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

Club Subscriptions (1 Oct 2023 – 30 Sept 2024)

At the Club AGM in November 2022, the subscription rate for the above year was maintained at £13.00 (reduced rate £6.50) plus the Mountaineering Scotland affiliation fee. The MS affiliation fee (including the Civil Liability Insurance premium) for the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 is £20.15.

Subscriptions paid by Direct Debits will be collected on 1st October:

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

Members not paying by direct debit should arrange payment during October. A membership card will be enclosed with the next Newsletter.

The reduced rate applies to Club members who have informed the Treasurer that on 1st October 2023 they will be 65 or over, 21 or under, or in full-time education, or are normally resident and working more than 80 km from Aberdeen.

Members wishing to pay at the reduced rate should tell the Treasurer of the reason.

Members who do not participate in any Club-organised outside activity and do not use Muir Cottage may, if they desire, withdraw from paying the MS Affiliation Fee. Please discuss this with the Treasurer.

Members of multiple clubs (or Individual Members of MS) wishing to pay the MS affiliation fee other than through the Cairngorm Club should tell the Treasurer which club it will be paid through or their MS membership number, as appropriate.

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.

Donald Thomas
treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk

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.

The reference field may be limited to 18 characters, including blanks.

Muir

Bookings for Muir are back to pre-COVID levels. The work weekend will have taken place by the time the newsletter has been printed. We are hoping for good weather as the bike shed will get its 4-yearly maintenance coating. All the usual jobs will be tackled and Balmoral estate will deliver the annual firewood order to be stacked. A Fire Risk Assessment of Muir will be also carried out, by an independent risk assessor.

Kees Witte, Hut Custodian

BBQ

After the success of last year's BBQ, the 2023 BBQ will be held at the RNUC, 9 Albyn Place, Aberdeen on Wednesday 14th June from 5.30pm. They will be offering a wide range of BBQ food and salads (including vegan options) and some desserts. Amazingly, given the move in the RPI over the last year, the cost has been held at £25 per person. There will be a cash bar for drinks.

To book a place, please transfer funds to the Club Bank Account marked "BBQ" (your account name will be provided by the bank), and email me at social@cairngormclub.org.uk to confirm your booking and indicate whether or not anyone in your party will be eating vegan.

I must now try to book good weather - though as a fall back we have access to the Garden Room if winter has returned on the 14th!

Eilidh Scobbie, Social Secretary

October Indoor Meet

Our first Indoor Meet of the 2023/24 season will be on Wednesday 4th October. This is your chance to hear one of the climbers of the so-called Golden Age of British Mountaineering, Clive Rowland, who is now best known for having rescued Doug Scott and Chris Bonington following their accident descending The Ogre. Further details about venue and charges will be sent out on the Club's Google group.

The Meet will be open to members and friends, but because it is expected that this will be a popular Meet, please email me at social@cairngormclub.org.uk with numbers if you intend to come.

Eilidh Scobbie, Social Secretary

The Club Forum

Since 2011, the Club has maintained a members-only website on which those registered can post or read many sorts of items, such as accounts (many with photos) 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.

Membership News

The following new members have recently been admitted to the Club:

Don Pritchard	Troon	Associate
Alec Erskine	Alford	Ordinary
Jeremy Foster	Inverurie	Associate
Ashild Sande	Bridge of Don	Associate
Arnstein Reitan	Bridge of Don	Associate
Will Schuneman	Aboyne	Associate

The Club has also attracted 10 new Interim members since the last Newsletter.

The Club is sad to report the recent deaths of Guy Scott from Banchory, an Ordinary member since 1969, and of Peter Ward from Aberdeen, an Ordinary member since 1973.

Day Meets

Further to the meets mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, here are the rest of the Day meets for 2023:

Oct 21 (Sat)	Dufftown - Aberlour Circular	Minibus	Colin Brown
Nov 19 (Sun)	Pollagach Circuit (Deeside)	Minibus	Ken Thomson
Dec 10 (Sun)	Buck of Cabrach	Minibus	Will Ellwood

Weekend Meets

As above, here are the rest of the Weekend meets for 2023:

Oct 13 (2 nights)	Morvich	Marj Ewan
Nov 17 (2 nights)	Muir Cottage	Mark Peel
Dec 1 (2 nights)	Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe	Esperanza Martin

Midweek Walks

As above, here are the rest of the Midweek Walks for 2023:

Oct 26	Clova Hill, Lumsden	Rod Campbell
Nov 30	Finzean	Richard Shirreffs
Dec 14	Banchory to Crathes	Eilidh Scobbie

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).

Please note: bookings not confirmed until payment is made.

June 2 - 4, Rum Bunkhouse (3 nights)

Walking opportunities are superb, including the Rum Cuillin traverse arguably one of the most exciting hill days out in the Scottish Islands. To book, or for more information, please contact Helen Russell at weekend@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

June 16 & 17, Sango Sands, Durness (2 nights)

This meet will be based at the Sango Sands Oasis Camping and Caravan site at Durness in Sutherland. As well as its proximity to many stunning Munros and Corbetts, this is an ideal location for a visit to Cape Wrath and its remote bothies. To book, contact Brian Purves at ctte8@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

July 7 & 8, Forest Way, Inverlael (2 nights)

The accommodation is perfectly geared up for the nearby hills including the Beinn Dearg group and the Fannichs. There is a shared kitchen/dining and lounge area with all the usual appliances and cookware. Bedding is also provided and there is a large effective drying room. To book, or for more information, please contact Martina Rooney by email at meetorganiser26@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

August 4 & 5, Corran Bunkhouse (2 nights)

This is a favourite with the Club due to its accessibility to so many hills in the area and the superb standard of accommodation. To book, or for more information, please contact Helen Russell at weekend@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

September 22 - 24 Knoydart Bunkhouse (3 nights)

Famous for its remoteness and access to some of Scotland classic walks this is a great opportunity to visit. To book, or for more information, please contact Jamie Vince at meetorganiser3@cairnngormclub.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)

Weekend Meets (organiser; contact details)

Climbing (Summer) (organiser; contact details)

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 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 Summer 2023.

June 21 - 22, Overnighter, Glen Shiel (Saturday)

This overnighter gives members the chance to spend the night up high above one of the iconic glens of Scotland. There are the Brother and Sister Munros to the north and the 7 or even 9 Munros of the South Glenshiel ridge. Corbetts are also nearby and low-level walks also possible. To book, contact Garry Wardrope by email at day@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

July 22, Monadhliaths (Saturday)

This car meet gives the opportunity to go to an area easily neglected for its lack of Munros but there are other hills in the area well worth visiting. The plan for the day is evolving and there may be the option to stay out overnight returning on Sunday. To book, or for more information, please contact Ivan Hiscox by email at vp@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

August 19, Glen Feshie (Saturday)

This is a car meet, with the aim to climb one or both of the western Cairngorm Munros, Mullach Clach a' Bhlaire and Monadh Mor. Arrangements for the day (including car sharing) can be made closer to the time by those attending. An option of heading over the night before and camping somewhere south of Aviemore could be considered, or staying there on the Saturday after the hike. To book, or for more information, please contact Craig Thomson by email at ctte11@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

September 10, Cairngorm Traverse (Sunday)

The coach will depart from St Margaret's School for Glenmore at 7am. Various options include Ben Macdhui and Beinn Mheadhoin, or a visit to Loch Avon and the Shelter Stone. Return to coach at Linn of Dee by 6.30pm. To book, or for more information, contact Vay Mutch by email at ctte5@cairnngormclub.org.uk.

More details of Club Activities at -
www.cairnngormclub.org.uk/clubactivities/clubactivities.htm

May 2023

25	Thur	MWW	Ballochbuie - Loch Phadruig (Jean Robinson, journal@cairngormclub.org.uk)
25	Thur	Other	Muir Cottage Work Weekend (Kees Witte; huts@cairngormclub.org.uk)
30	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Deceptive Wall (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

June

2	Fri	Weekend	Rum Bunkhouse (Helen Russell, weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)
6	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at inland remote venue, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
9	Fri	Multi-day	North West Scotland (Guy Bromby; meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk)
13	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Peel Slough (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
14	Wed	Social	BBQ at RNUC (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
16	Fri	Weekend	Sango Sands Camping, Dumess (Brian Purves; ette9@cairngormclub.org.uk)
20	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at inland remote venue, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
24	Sat	Day	Overnighter - Glenshiel (Garry Wardrope; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
27	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Souter Head (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Thur	MWW	Carnferg (Fiona Lyall)

July

4	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Meikle Partans (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
7	Fri	Weekend	Forest Way, Lael (Gill Stephens; meetorganiser23@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Humpback (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
18	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Yellow Wall (Sport) (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Sat	Day	Car meet to Monadhliaths, possible overnight option (Ivan Hiscox; vp@cairngormclub.org.uk)
25	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at low tide venue, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
27	Thur	MWW	Craig Leek from Keiloch (Mike Forsyth)

August

1	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at Pass of Ballater (East) (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
4	Fri	Weekend	Corran Bunkhouse (Helen Russell; weekend@cairngormclub.org.uk)
8	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at low tide venue, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Fri	Multi-day	Beinn a'Ghlo area to Inverey (Guy Bromby; meetorganiser18@cairngormclub.org.uk)
15	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Sat	Day	Car meet to Glen Feshie, possible overnight option (Craig Thomson; ette11@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
31	Thur	MWW	Hill of Fare Traverse (Ken Thomson; secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Sept

5	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Sun	Day	Cairngorm Traverse (7am; 36, 43; 989063 - 063898; 8hrs; £15; coach; Vay Mutch; ette5@cairngormclub.org.uk)
12	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
19	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Fri	Weekend	Knoydart Bunkhouse (Jamie Vince; meetorganiser3@cairngormclub.org.uk)
26	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing at non-tidal or inland crag, location TBC (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
28	Thur	MWW	Upper Glen Dye (Donald Thomas; membership@cairngormclub.org.uk)

Oct

3	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing Season Begins (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
4	Wed	Social	Chris Rowland renowned British climber (venue TBC) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
13	Fri	Weekend	Morvich, Kintail (Marj Ewan; meetorganiser13@cairngormclub.org.uk)
17	Tue	Climbing	Indoor Climbing (Stuart Message; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)