

The Cairngorm Club

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MUIR COTTAGE, INVEREY

Booking Secretary: Forbes McPherson, muir-booking@cairngormclub.org.uk

Custodian: Eilidh Scobbie, 07786 395927, or huts@cairngormclub.org.uk

We hope that your stay at Muir will be enjoyable, but we are always open to ideas for improving our facilities. If you have any suggestions, please be sure to let one of us know – preferably with photographs, and/or model/part nos. etc. if applicable.

Charges: £6 a night for Cairngorm Club members; £3 for members' children aged 5-15 years. For all others, £13 a night (children £6.50). Bank transfers should use 'Cairngorm Club', sort code 83-15-31, a/c no. 19165508, using reference 'Muir' and 'date of arrival' e.g. 'Muir 21Jun24'. EV charging £15 per vehicle (see below)

Booking: A 50% deposit, and the full address, mobile and land line numbers of the main booking representative, are required on booking, the balance to be paid a full month before arrival date. Book no more places than you are sure you can fill, or will pay for anyway even if unfilled. If nearer the time you want to book more places, contact the Booking Secretary. The 4-bed Cairngorm Club Members' Room cannot be booked or used by non-Club visitors.

Cancellation: We tolerate cancellations or reduced numbers up to three months before a booking date. Beyond that point, we expect you to honour your booking; even in winter, there is usually some way of getting to Muir. For cancellations due to extreme circumstances beyond normal control, we may offer a partial credit, at the discretion of the Custodian and / or Booking Secretary. We reserve the right to place on a 'Black List' groups or individuals who make bookings and don't honour them.

Facilities

- 18 beds, in 9 two-tier bunks, with mattresses and pillows (+ sheets and pillow cases), in 4 dormitories (6, 6, 4 and 2 bunks)
- Male, female and disabled washrooms, each with toilet(s) and shower
- Firewood for use in the common room stove
- Hot water for both personal and kitchen washing
- Ovens, microwaves and fridges (two of each); crockery, cutlery, toasters, kettles, pans, etc.
- Cleaning equipment and liquids.

You should bring your own:

- Sleeping bag, personal towels, and dish-drying towels

Finding Muir: The Cottage is about 500m west of the bridge at Inverey: OS NO 076 896, postcode AB35 5YB, What3Words code Hurricane Skips Character. There is a stone wall at the road side.

Older maps may show a youth hostel symbol nearby; that building (Blackburn Cottage) is now private. The "Muir" nearer the Linn of Dee is not our Muir. Mobile phone coverage west of Braemar (and in the hills) is patchy, but Vodafone has a booster transmitter on Morrone, and claims that there is reception at the Linn of Dee car park.

Winter Access: The A93 from Aberdeen to Braemar is rarely impassable even in severe snow, and the road from Braemar past Muir to the Linn of Dee is better serviced than one might expect, with a snowplough usually up by mid-morning if conditions require it. Those travelling from or to the south by the A93 from Blairgowrie to Braemar need to be more circumspect; the road can be blocked, and the snow gates at Spital of Glenshee and Braemar may be closed.

The Cairngorm Club – Muir Cottage, Inverey

Information for while you are there

The person in charge of your group should ensure that each member is aware of these instructions, which hang on the common room notice board.

On arrival

On hut departure / arrival days, a departing group has priority up to 6pm, and must have left completely by 8pm. An incoming group should not arrive before 4pm, and has priority after 6pm.

Enter by the main door, to the left as you approach the building. This door has a key-safe to the left, with a grey protective cover. Flip the cover back, enter the code, and press both side buttons. The front panel will open, and a Muir key should be inside. Once the door has been unlocked, return the key to the key-safe, close the front panel, turn the dials to hide the code, and flip up the protective cover. Take your clothing etc. in by the main door. If you wish to use the other (kitchen) door, open it from the inside. In windy conditions, ensure that, if both outer doors are in use, then at least one inner door between them is kept shut.

In the unlikely event that no key has been left inside, contact either Forbes McPherson or Eilidh Scobbie. There is no-one near Muir who holds a key and has authority to release it.

Water Heating

Solar thermal panels heat water on sunny days. The supplementary immersion heater is controlled by two-hour timer switches in the common room cupboard. Use the upper switch, or both if you anticipate the need for a greater amount of hot water.

Space Heating

The common room has low-power electric frost-protection heating. If you wish to use the wood-burning stove, please see the separate notes below, and use it with due attention to fire safety. The kitchen space heater, if needed, may have to be switched on and re-set.

The washrooms have panel heaters which in winter serve as frost protection. They also have high-level radiant heaters controlled through time switches in the hallway outside; these are only “top-up” heating for those having showers. The disabled washroom has a heated towel rail which also serves as frost protection in winter.

The drying room is usually amply warm from the hot water cylinder. It also has fixed floor-mounted heaters controlled by a switch and a meter which uses a “recycled” 20p coin. A dehumidifier can be switched on if there is much wet gear to be dried.

The dormitories have panel heaters powered through a push-button 2-hour timer.

On no account must the heaters be directly used for drying clothes.

When departing in winter (November to March), please leave all heaters set in accordance with the signage on or beside them.

Lighting

There is adequate electric lighting throughout, and the bed lights each have a USB charging point. If you wish to bring emergency lighting, please restrict this to electric torches, not candles or gas lamps. If any bulbs need to be replaced, other than the

fluorescent tubes in the kitchen, there should be replacements in the wooden cabinet in the entrance hallway. If you use the last of any type of bulb, please inform the custodian. If any of the kitchen lights flickers unacceptably, switch off, remove the starter, and make do with the lights that remain there.

Kitchen

The kitchen has two microwave cookers, two four-ringed electric cookers with oven and top oven (the clock on the black cooker needs to be switched on for the oven to work), a large refrigerator and a large fridge-freezer. There are two sinks, two kettles, two toasters and a plumbed-in hot water dispenser, which works when all its lights are red. The kettles should not be needed unless there is a problem with the dispenser or a heavy surge in demand. The hot water at the sinks can be very hot (eventually), so take care.

The stainless-steel worktops are heat-resistant but are not proof against damage from very hot pans and oven dishes. Please keep the glass sheets alongside the cookers, and place really hot pans or oven dishes only on them.

Stocks of Ecover washing-up liquids, cleaning cloths and sponges are below the right-hand sink, with back-up supplies in the hall cupboard. Do not use non-eco washing-up liquids.

There are usually some dish towels, but for hygienic reasons you may wish to bring (and take away afterwards) your own.

Water and the Environment

The water quality is checked annually by the local authority. We have a UV treatment facility and a filter on the feed to the kitchen cold taps. If these taps are not running, check the main cock under the right-hand sink, and if necessary turn it anti-clockwise to open. If the main cock is open and there is still no water, there must be a problem with the supply pipe, and you should alert the Custodian; meantime, use pails and the River Dee!

The taps in the washrooms and toilet cisterns are fed from storage tanks in the roof space above the common room. If they should dry up but the kitchen taps still run, alert the Custodian. Sounds of water above the common room do not signify a problem.

Drainage at Muir is to a septic tank. Many household cleansers, bleaches, etc. prejudice its operation, as do excessive water or solid objects. Therefore:

- do not use any toilet or kitchen cleansers or bleaches other than those provided, and use the latter only in moderation
- do not run needless quantities of water down the sinks
- do not use the loos as waste disposal points.

Refuse

There are three Aberdeenshire Council wheelie bins at the entrance: one for 'clean' cardboard and paper, one for 'clean' recyclable waste, and one for general waste. Please read the documentation hanging in the kitchen for what is to go into each bin. For general waste, bins and (under the right-hand sink) black plastic sacks are provided in the kitchen. One bin will be emptied on Tuesday (i.e. each bin once every three weeks).

If the bins are full, please take all your refuse away with you. There are re-cycling bins both at the Inverey car park and in Braemar. Please do not leave cardboard boxes at Muir: they just become clutter.

Common Room Stove

The wood-burning stove can provide all the heat needed there, and works well with logs sitting in a bed of ash. Operating instructions hang just above the stove on the left-hand side: **please read and follow these instructions!** Ash embers still aglow will help keep the stove from going out completely, and the ash does not often need to be cleared out.

Before departing, leave a supply of logs and kindling to the left of (but not immediately next to) the stove for the next occupants. Logs are kept in the smaller sheds at the back of Muir. Please use the driest logs – usually signed as such in the larger shed. The keys for the larger wood shed (and the bike shed) hang on the vestibule wall, and **must be returned there** whenever not in use.

Please do not gather firewood or cones from the land round about: the estate owners (the National Trust for Scotland) see fallen wood and cones as a biodiversity resource.

Bikes

The bike shed behind the cottage is opened by a key kept in the vestibule, and contains about 6 mountain bikes and safety helmets (and a pump) belonging to the Club. If you damage a bike (or find it damaged), then please fix it, or inform the Custodian. The shed can be used to store your own bikes. Please keep the shed locked all the time when not in use. Again, when not in use, return the key to the vestibule.

Fire Safety

We are alert to the Fire Safety Regulations 2006, and believe that we do all that we reasonably can to meet our obligations under these Regulations to minimise the risk of fire and the consequences if a fire should occur. However, those using Muir must avoid thoughtless or careless activity which might occasion an outbreak of fire.

Muir does not have a resident warden, and your group, for the duration of your stay, will have “control” of the premises in terms of the above Regulations. Your group should therefore make its own assessment of safety aspects attuned to the details of the party, taking account, for example, of any who are blind or deaf, or lack full normal mobility or a sense of smell.

We provide a fire blanket and alarm sounder in the kitchen, three foam extinguishers (beige) in the hallway and another in the vestibule, a powder extinguisher (red) in the kitchen and another in the hallway, carbon monoxide alarm in the common room, and two smoke alarms in the hallway.

In the event of a fire, your priorities should be to:

- Ensure that everyone in the cottage is alerted to it
- Ensure that everyone who cannot safely do anything useful to fight the fire leaves the cottage (with help given to any who need it); the main gate is the assigned safe area.
- If the fire has the potential to get out of control, call the Fire Brigade (999 or 112)
- Do what you can to contain or extinguish the fire without undue risk to yourself or others.

General Safety

We believe that we maintain Muir as a generally safe place for the accommodation of visitors. Hazards are in general obvious, and in many cases no different from what is to be found in a home. Thus floorings may be slippery if footwear is wet; the hot water can be very hot; the stove when on will be extremely hot; the bunks and their ladders harbour obvious risks; and the midgeater (in season) could cause harm if interfered with.

Whilst we welcome children as guests, the cottage is maintained primarily for adult walkers and climbers, and we make no special effort to conceal from children’s view things which

could be abused by them, such as cleaning fluids, axes and saws.

A basic first aid kit is kept on the south-facing window sill in the kitchen.

Items left behind

We are generally unable to collect and return left items. If you leave anything behind, you may return to Muir to see if it is still there, but check with the Booking Secretary before doing so, to ensure that the key safe code is the same, and that there are no vulnerable groups using Muir. If it is a valuable item, please inform the Custodian, who will do his best to get it found and returned at owner's cost. The best principle to follow is: if you leave it, you've lost it!

Damage, Breakages and Problems

Please report any damage or breakages either found when you arrive or caused by someone in your party. If non-urgent, email or text the Custodian, preferably with a photo and/or serial number etc. of the problem. If urgent, contact the Custodian at reasonable times, i.e. not before 8am or after 10pm. The booking person / organisation will be held responsible for damage caused by their group, and liable for the cost.

Leaving

There are two notices at Muir about leaving: one next to the exit door and the other on the notice board. Please read them and observe them when the time comes. In particular, please leave the heaters in the kitchen and washrooms on, at an appropriate setting, and check that all windows and doors are closed.

EV Charging

This is possible by prior arrangement with the Booking Secretary (to confirm the need to use the RCD circuit) and at a charge of £15 per vehicle.

Updated: June 2024