

October 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

## STOP PRESS!

We have new Cairngorm Club merchandise to order; would make a good Christmas present.

**Hoodies, T-Shirts and Snoods, all with Cairngorm Club crest.** See link for details of colours and sizes

**Heavyweight Hoodie £41** - <https://funkypanthercatalogue.fullcollection.com/catalogue/products/AM01-anthem-organic-hoodie>

**Mediumweight Hoodie £31** - <https://funkypanthercatalogue.fullcollection.com/catalogue/products/JH001-awdis-college-hoodie>

**T-Shirts £19** - <https://funkypanthercatalogue.fullcollection.com/catalogue/products/03981-sols-unisex-legend-organic-t-shirt?c=284-t-shirts%26category%3D%26sort%3Drecommended>

**Snoods £15 - Blue or black (order, minimum of 10)**



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If interested contact Helen Russell by 31st October and transfer funds to the Cairngorm Club account. Please indicate which garment, colour and size. All dimensions are on the attached links and all garments are unisex. The items are sourced from Funky Panther which is a local firm that you can visit, if you wish, to see the quality of the garments. Note : check they are in stock before you visit, but please **do not** order directly from - [www.funkypanther.co.uk](http://www.funkypanther.co.uk).

If there is popular interest in other garments we will look to add more items to order.

## **Club AGM - Wednesday 13 November 2024**

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) at 7:30pm on the above date: please put it in your diaries! A formal notice will be sent out in October with the agenda etc. In addition to the usual items, there are a number of issues to be reported on and discussed, e.g. Membership Survey results, website revision, possible Muir improvements, and possible incorporation.

## **Club Dinner 2024**

The Club Dinner will take place on Saturday 9th November 2024 at the RNUC, Albyn Place, Aberdeen. The speaker at the dinner will be Kirsty Pallas, talking about discrimination issues in mountaineering,

## **Membership Cards 2025**

In order to reduce effort and costs, the Club membership card for 2025 and going forward will be in the form of an electronic card delivered by email. This card can be stored on your phone and displayed whenever proof of membership is required. A range of discounts in local shops are available and can be checked out under Membership Benefits on the Club website. The cards will be sent out following receipt of subscription. For any questions, please email [membership@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:membership@cairngormclub.org.uk).

## **JWS Winter Talks**

A link to the Joint Winter Schedule of "Outdoor" Aberdeen Talks during Winter 2024/25 has been posted on the home page of the Club's website, under "What's New".

## **Club Forum**

If you are not already a member why don't you sign up for the Club Forum? The Forum is full of Meet reports containing some wonderful photography and other useful information such as approved Committee Minutes. To sign up please visit - <https://www.tapatalk.com/groups/cairngormclub/>

## DAY MEETS

There have been four day meets over the summer months, and since the last newsletter.

Back in June, Tom Litterick oversaw our annual midsummer overnighiter in the Mamores. Club members took the opportunity to spend the night high in the mountains and take in several Mamores peaks over the weekend.

In July there were centenary celebrations for the Lochnagar indicator. Ken Thomson organised the event, and many members and guests joined him to mark the occasion. More detail on this event on page 14 of this Newsletter.

Our August meet was a trip to the Creag Meagaidh mountains, organised by Vay Mutch. A group of 6 members shared cars and joined her for a west to east traverse of the range with an overnight stay in Coire Ardair in the heart of this group of hills. During two contrasting days of weather (Saturday: wind, rain and mist. Sunday: calm, clear and sunny), the group took in 5 Munro summits.

Then on Sunday 8th September, our traditional Cairngorm traverse took place from north to south. Guy Bromby organised this well attended meet. Club members (some seasoned traversers, some new) enjoyed fine late summer weather on the route up and over Ben Macdui. Always an epic hike.



One of the traverse groups  
on the summit of Ben Macdui  
(drone photo Alex Barbour)

Reports and photos from these outings are on the Forum on the Club's website.

By the time this newsletter goes out we'll have been to our Dufftown/Aberlour/Conval Hills meet on the first Saturday of October. The remaining 2 trips of the year will be on Sunday 3rd November when Kolbjorn Akselvoll is organising a day meet in Perthshire, with an ascent of Ben Vrackie, followed by supper at the Moulin Inn, Pitlochry. Then on Sunday 8th December we will have our festive day meet (a flask of mulled wine and some stollen cake usually gets passed around when we reach the summit). This year Ken has a traverse of Morven planned, with a stop off in Ballater before returning to Aberdeen.

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As always, a big thank you goes to the organisers of our monthly Day meets, whose efforts have created some memorable adventures. On Tuesday 29 October we'll be meeting in Ma Camerons, at 7.00 for 7.30pm, to decide on the locations for the 2025 Day Meet Calendar. Ideas for hike locations, offers to organise etc, will be gratefully received. Please put the date in your diary and come along if you can.

Also, I'd like to remind you of the appeal for minibus driver volunteers. In September I emailed this appeal to Club members. The email has details of the licence criteria needed for drivers. We currently have 8 day meets throughout the year where we hire a minibus, and any offer to assist and hopefully expand our pool of drivers would be most welcome. If you have any questions relating to this please don't hesitate to contact me at [day@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairngormclub.org.uk).

Craig Thomson  
Day Meets Secretary

## **Glenmore Parking Charges**

Proposals to impose parking charges and restrictions on the road past Loch Morlich and up to the ski area have been watered down. Longer periods, including overnight parking, will be allowed in the Pay and Display bays, and restrictions will operate from 1 March to 31 October, not all year. The charges now proposed for the bays between the Reindeer Centre junction and the Hayfield car park will be £3 for 3 hours, £4 for 6 hours, and £5 for 24 hours.

## **Club Secretary**

After 20 years, Ken Thomson is retiring as Club Secretary at the November AGM: could you fill this role? Ordinarily, the Secretary's only formal duties are to arrange the Committee meetings held every two months or so, and the annual AGM. Both involve agreeing the agenda with the President, and taking the minutes; group email addresses make it easy to notify all those involved. Otherwise, the Secretary simply acts as an occasional source of Club information for enquirers inside and outside the Club; meets are handled by the relevant Meet Secretaries and Organisers, and all financial and membership matters by the Treasurer. Ken is willing to carry on with his other activities such as being the Club Librarian/Archivist, and helping out with Mid-Week Walks etc., as long as both he and the Committee are willing. Please get in touch with Ken or Helen Russell (see back page) if you can see your way to filling the Secretarial role!

## Club Subscriptions (1 Oct 2024 – 30 Sept 2025)

The Mountaineering Scotland (MS) affiliation fee for 2024/25 has risen by £1.60.

Cairngorm Club subscription rates for 2024/25 are:

	Full Rate	Reduced Rate
Club	£13.00	£6.50
MS	£ 21 75	£21.75
Total	£34.75	£28.25

Direct Debits were collected on 2 October 2024. Members not paying by direct debit should arrange payment during October. An electronic membership card for 2025 will be sent out following receipt of subscription. The reduced rate applies to Club members who have informed the Treasurer that on 1st October 2024 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 their MS membership number and which club it will be paid through if 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  
[treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk](mailto: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 name is provided by the bank. The reference field may be limited to 18 characters, including blanks.

## Continuous Round of the Grahams

Lorraine McCall from Beaully has become the first woman recorded to have completed the Grahams on a continuous round. Her adventure raised money for the charity Alzheimer Scotland. It took her four months to climb all of the 231 peaks.

## **The Walking Partnership**

The Club has joined the Walking Partnership, supported by Ramble Worldwide: see <https://www.rambleworldwide.co.uk/responsible-tourism/the-walking-partnership>. Each time a Club member books with Ramble Worldwide, nominating the Club (before the trip), it will receive payment as follows: UK £10 per person booked, short-haul £20 pp, long-haul £30 pp. This includes bookings that have already been made. More information via [support@thewalkingpartnership.org.uk](mailto:support@thewalkingpartnership.org.uk), or 01707 331133.

Private Group Holidays by a group of 8 or more people qualify for a discount of 5% off the basic holiday price per person, plus the TWP payments as above (subject to a cap if 16 or more group members booked). Other benefits include a dedicated personal Private Groups service, and for all private groups of 8+ the organiser will receive a gift voucher of up to £100 to be redeemed on one of our holidays. See <https://www.rambleworldwide.co.uk/private-groups>, or phone Melanie on 01707 386723 or email her at [groups@rambleworldwide.co.uk](mailto:groups@rambleworldwide.co.uk).

## **A Question of Masts**

With support from 40-odd Club members, Ken Thomson planted a question at the National Trust of Scotland AGM held in Kirkcaldy on 20 September: “Under the UK-wide SRN (Shared Rural Network) programme, many masts, along with associated generators, solar panels, wind turbines, access tracks, etc., are being proposed in order to provide 4G coverage even in remote “wild” areas with no local demand, and little or no human landscape features. These include sites on NTS properties such as Mar Lodge Estate and Torridon. What is the Trust’s attitude to such proposals, and what action is it taking to approaches by contractors for access to such sites?”.

At the AGM, the question was read out by the chair (no text provided or photos shown) and dealt with rather anodyne. However, in conversation afterwards, a senior NTS staff member was rather more forthright: NTS are concerned that some masts will damage landscape, and have tried (going as far as the Land Tribunal in one case) to obstruct or at least to re-site these, as appropriate. The proposed Lui Beg mast is “high” on their list, along with others at Torridon and Kintail (4 or 5 masts).

## **Muir Cottage**

The Hut Custodian has recently reported that work had been carried out by a local plumber following issues with the temperature of the water in the Men’s and Women’s washrooms.

She also reports that a reasonable 4G signal is now available for most networks, which will enhance the visitor experience, if they so wish.

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 Winter 24/25.

### **November 3, Ben Vrackie (Sunday)**

The minibus will leave at 7am from St. Margaret's and will head south on the A90 and onwards to Pitlochry/Moulin. The path we will follow will be the traditional route north past Loch A'Choire from Moulin to the summit of the Corbett at 841m. The view from the summit is excellent towards the Cairngorms and Beinn a'Ghlo. On the return we will backtrack our steps to the loch where we will make a detour west before joining the track back to Moulin and the Hotel. Distance is around 10km, duration 4hrs +. For the more vigorous of the group it is possible to join the path to Killiecrankie which will add around 7km to the walk. To book, please contact Kolbjørn Akselvoll at [ctte3@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:ctte3@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### **December 8, Morven Traverse (Sunday)**

The minibus will leave St. Margaret's at 8am, with pick-ups possible along the North Deeside Road. The walk will start from the highest point on the A939, and go east over Cairnagour Hill and Mona Gowan onto Morven. From the summit, we will probably descend to Groddie in the east, but possibly – depending on conditions and wishes – south via the Culsten Burn to Tullich and Ballater. We should be back in Aberdeen by around 6pm. To book, or for more information, please contact Ken Thomson at [librarian@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:librarian@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### **January 12, Lochnagar (Sunday)**

The coach will depart from St. Margaret's at 7am. As is traditional, the President's Party will ascend Lochnagar but there are many alternatives including the other Glen Muick Munros and Corbetts, walking back to Ballater, or simply a walk around the loch itself. Afterwards we will stop for High Tea; details will be announced nearer the time. To book, please contact Craig Thomson at [day@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:day@cairnformclub.org.uk).

### **February 8, Glas Maol Trio (Saturday)**

The minibus will depart from St. Margaret's at 7am and head towards Glenshee Ski centre. The current plan is to approach to the hills will be from the north going over Carn an Tuirc, Cairn of Claise then onto Glas Maol. More details via Google Group nearer the time. To book, please contact Guy Bromby at [meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk](mailto:meetorganiser18@cairnformclub.org.uk).

**October 2024**

- |    |      |          |  |
|----|------|----------|--|
| 1  | Tue  | Climbing | Outdoor Climbing - Deceptive Wall (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 2  | Wed  | Indoor   | Emma Macdonald (Alpine Club Librarian) on the “History of Women Climbing”; Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk) |
| 5  | Sat  | Day      | The Convals via Craigellachie/Dufftown/Aberlour Circular (7am; 28; 288450; 7hrs; £15; minibus; Craig Thomson; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 9  | Wed  | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 16 | Wed  | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 18 | Fri  | Stravaig | Location TBC (Gill Shirreffs)  |
| 18 | Fri  | Camping  | Wild Camping Taster in Southern Cairngorms (Guy Bromby)  |
| 18 | Fri  | Weekend  | Raeburn Hut, Laggan (Sue Miller)   |
| 23 | Wed  | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 30 | Wed  | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 31 | Thur | MWW      | Cairn William, Pitfichie (Tom Litterick; meetorganiser29@cairngormclub.org.uk)   |

**November**

- |    |     |          |  |
|----|-----|----------|--|
| 3  | Sun | Day      | Ben Vrackie (7am; 43 & 52; 944593; 5hrs; £15; Kolbjorn Akselvoll; ctte3@cairngormclub.org.uk)                              |
| 6  | Wed | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 9  | Sat | Dinner   | Club Dinner at the RNUC, Albyn Place, Aberdeen (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk).                              |
| 13 | Wed | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 13 | Wed | AGM      | AGM; Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) (Ken Thomson: secretary@cairngormclub.org.uk) |
| 15 | Fri | Weekend  | Inver Croft, Achnasheen (Caroline Watt; meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 20 | Wed | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |
| 27 | Wed | Climbing | Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)  |



28	Thur MWW	Arbroath Sea Cliffs (Brian Davey)
29	Fri Weekend	Corran Bunkhouse (Esperanza Martin; meetorganiser11@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>December</b>		
4	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
4	Wed Indoor	Iain Young - "The Cairngorms"; Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
8	Sun Day	Morven West to East Traverse (8am; 37; 312038 - 370958; 7hrs; £15; minibus; Ken Thomson; librarian@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
12	Thur MWW	Ellon followed by Christmas lunch (Marj Ewan; meetorganiser13@cairngormclub.org.uk)
18	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>January 2025</b>		
8	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
8	Wed Indoor	Simon Blackett - "The History of Skiing on Deeside"; Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
12	Sun Day	Lochnagar (7am; 44; 311852; 7hrs; TBC; coach; Craig Thomson; day@cairngormclub.org.uk)
15	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
24	Fri Weekend	Muir Cottage (Burns Supper Weekend) (Mark Norris & Caroline Watt; meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
30	Thur MWW	Kincardine o'Neil to Lumphanan (Ken Thomson; librarian@cairngormclub.org.uk)
<b>February 2025</b>		
5	Wed Climbing	Indoor Climbing at TX (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
5	Wed Indoor	Graham Wyllie - "His Journey through the MCI Scheme"; Garden Room at Fountainhall Church at the Cross (formerly Queens Cross) (Eilidh Scobbie; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)

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

**October 18, Raeburn Hut, Laggan (2 nights)**

The Club has exclusive use of this well-situated SMC cottage on the A889. The Monadhliaths, Western Cairngorms and Loch Ericht hills are only a short drive away, with Creag Meagaidh, the Grey Corries and others not much further. Rock climbing at Creag Dubh just across the Spey. To book, contact Sue Miller by email at meetorganiser24@cairngormclub.org.uk.

**November 15, Inver Croft, Achnasheen (2 nights)**

A chance to stay at the Jacobites' Club hut with plenty of big days available nearby, although the length of the days may dictate otherwise. Plenty locally to keep all occupied, with many Munros and Corbetts awaiting your boots. To book, contact Caroline Watt by email at meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk.

**November 29, 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 Esperanza Martin by email at meetorganiser11@cairngormclub.org.uk.

**January 24, Muir Cottage (Burns Supper Weekend) (2 nights)**

Celebrate Scotland's Bard Robert Burns with some traditional Scottish food, drink and possibly some traditional music. Over the weekend you could also tackle some of the Munros, Corbetts, skiing or ski touring, and low-level walks as well as your haggis, neeps and tatties. To book, contact Mark Norris or Caroline Watt. or email Caroline at meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk.

**February 14, Lagangarbh (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 Ivan Hiscox by email at vp@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 following Associate Members have been admitted since the last Newsletter:

Peter Stephen (Aberdeen)  
Audrey Shaw (Aberlour)

The following Ordinary Members have been admitted since the last Newsletter:

Marcus Risdell (Inverness)  
Stephane Gazet (Aberdeen)  
Catriona Lawson (Methlick)

The Club has also attracted 3 new Interim Members since the last Newsletter.

## Transfer to Ordinary Membership

The Club aims to “promote competence, safety, knowledge and responsibility of attitude amongst persons who engage in mountaineering”. Our membership structure reflects this, with “Ordinary” and “Associate” memberships. Ordinary Membership (OM) recognises a basic level of experience and competence, “to look after yourself and to lead one or two others in all conditions normally encountered on the Scottish hills, without expecting any proficiency in the use of ropes”. We hope most members will become Oms, but many join as Associates and never consider progressing to become an OM.

If you are an Associate Member with appropriate experience, why not apply now? We ask for a brief written declaration of experience and the support of two Ordinary Members - just send a completed Application Form (see website) to the Membership Secretary. If you wish to improve your skills first, please let our Training Officer know. We run various subsidised courses, including navigation and winter skills, and also offer financial support to attend some external courses, including at Glenmore Lodge.

## Wildfires in the Cairngorms

As announced in the June Newsletter, the Cairngorms National Park Authority carried out a wide-ranging consultation in spring 2024: a total of 1,664 online responses and 18 written responses were received. 79% of all respondents supported the introduction of a byelaw, a majority the year-round option. However, given the low fire risk during winter, and the difficulties of communication and enforcement, the CNPA Board was asked in June to support the development of a seasonal Park-wide fire management byelaw, to be followed by further formal consultation and then Ministerial approval. Muirburn will be covered by individual licences under new legislation.

## Seals Ahoy!

In spring 2024, a grey seal was spotted in the River Dee at Kincardine o’Neil – 45km upstream, the furthest on record. Whilst in the river, it foraged upside down! Common seals are also present in the river: “no. 18” is a regular individual between Upper Drum and Kingcausie.

## **Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon - Haweswater Fells 2024**

Four members of the Club took part in the SLMM early in July this year.

For the uninitiated the idea is to complete a two-day orienteering style event carrying all the equipment and food you will need. The check points and overnight camp are only disclosed after the start! There are several courses to enter of varying lengths and amount of ascent. This year the event was centred in the area north of Haweswater.

Ian Hamilton and Alec Erskine entered the score course. This course involves choosing which of the check points of varying values to visit in a given time limit. They were 49th out of 119 starters overall and 24th out of 53 starters in the veterans class.

Mark Peel and Rod Campbell entered the somewhat easier Wansfell course which is a linear course in which check points must be visited in a set order. They were 81st out of 110 starters overall and 18th out of 47 starters in the veterans class.

The teams were blessed with good weather on both days, with one or two light sprinklings to cool them down. There were interesting navigational and route choice problems on both days, all in an atmosphere of friendly competition.

While Rod, Ian and Alec were old hands, Mark is a new boy with the bit in his teeth and is seeking partners for more of the same! Good practice for our overnights!

Ian and Alec stayed on in the Lakes to do a few rock-climbing routes on the Monday just to loosen up.

More details on the SLMM website at - <https://slmm.org.uk/>

## **Donations**

The Club has made donations of £500 to each of the Mountain Rescue Teams in Aberdeen, Braemar and Arrochar and £250 to Scottish Mountain Rescue .

A second donation of £1000 to Mountain Training Scotland to provide bursaries for outdoor training is planned, subject to satisfactory report on the use of last year's donation.

## **Munro Completion**

Club member Tim Walmsley recently completed the Munros: in his own words - "I completed my round of Munros on Beinn Chabhair on Saturday 7th September 2024, just over 40 years after starting with my first Munro, which was Ben Nevis. I was accompanied by family and friends and enjoyed a fine day and stayed at Inverardran Cottage, OMC, Crianlarich."

Well done Tim.

## **Duncan Macrae Legacy**

Joining in 1954, Duncan was a well-known Life Member of the Club, latterly residing in Ballater until his death in August last year. We have recently been told that he bequeathed £2000 to the Club: the Committee has not yet considered whether this should be used for any special purpose.

## **Shelter Stone Visitor Book Replaced**

In June 2024, after it became almost full, the 48-page waterproof Visitor Book left under the Shelter Stone in late July 2022 was replaced. A rough analysis of the information left in this book reveals 125 entries listing about 307 people (not dogs and mice), of whom 53 (17%) stayed overnight under the Stone, several being Club members. Another 9% camped nearby, and 6% recorded climbing a nearby route. Of course, many more people will have visited the Stone, and may not have noticed, or written in, the book. After the necessary drying and de-fumigation, the book is being archived, along with older versions, in the Club Library at Kings College.

PS: Ms Kat Broomfield, Library Archives Assistant, has made a blog entry on wartime entries (one by Tom Weir) in the Shelter Stone Visitor Books: see under “Discover” at [www.exploreyourarchive.org](http://www.exploreyourarchive.org).

## **ScotWays Recruitment**

The Scottish Rights of Way Society (ScotWays, of which the Club is a member) is looking for volunteers to (a) help to repair its well-known signs, with muscle, tools, vehicle, etc., and/or (b) serve on its board as a director (meeting via Zoom if more convenient). If interested, see [scotways.com/jobs](http://scotways.com/jobs).

## **Fell & Rock Climbing Club Huts**

The FRCC is keen to see greater use of their 7 huts (Karn House in Aviemore, Waters Cottage in Kinlochleven, and 5 in the Lake District). Individual Cairngorm Club members may now book beds for themselves and up to 6 guests aged 11+. More detail at [www.frcc.co.uk/kc\\_hut\\_booking](http://www.frcc.co.uk/kc_hut_booking).

### **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**

## Club Member Survey

We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the Member Survey which was distributed in the first part of the year. You provided us with an excellent turnout of almost 150 responses, which means well over a third of you took the time to respond - which perhaps shouldn't be a surprise when 38% of you have been a member for over 20 years!

The data gathered and your high-quality written comments have given the committee a substantial amount of information to consider (our first report numbered nearly 40 pages). We will provide a set of summary reports with notable figures at the upcoming AGM, where we'll also touch on some of the common themes we've picked up on. We hope to make way for positive developments within the Club, despite your feedback giving overall satisfaction an average of 4.28 out of 5!

## Lochnagar Indicator Centennial Event, Saturday 13 July, 2024

As posted with photos on the Forum (see under Day Meets), a total of 23 Club members, plus 4 guests and members and friends of the Levack family (see below), started out from the Spittal of Glen Muick to commemorate the erection, almost exactly 100 years previously, on 12 July 1924, of the viewpoint indicator on the summit of Lochnagar. The weather was cloudy but mainly dry, so that walking conditions were generally good. Up at the Gelder col, the breeze was stronger, and as usual even more so at the foot of the Ladder. Those who persevered found the wind less strong as they made their way up to Cac Carn Beag, where a distant wailing resolved itself into cheerful bagpipe music. Altogether, there were at least 40 people on and around the summit rocks to be addressed by both the current President Helen Russell and by Richard Levack (grandson of Dr J. R Levack, Club President in 1924), followed by a small tumbler of very acceptable Lochnagar whisky kindly provided by Club member Graham Watt.

A small illustrated brochure was produced for the occasion. Copies can be obtained from the Club Secretary (see back page) or viewed on the Club Forum.

## Bumble Bees

As part of the Club's BBQ weekend at Muir this August, members had the chance to attend an informative indoor presentation and outdoor workshop in the meadow behind Inverey given by Annie Ives of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Much fun was had by all. We all came away enthusiastic about these wonderful mini beasts, and Annie and her partner Robbie have been inspired to join the Club. A very successful day!



### **Three Planning Matters**

A “Proposal of Application Notice” (ENQ/2024/1285) has been received by Aberdeenshire Council (but may be referred to the Park Authority) for works to “restore” the Dee between the Quoich and Braemar. These would include removal of the embankment on the north side of the river, and the creation of wetlands and islands south of Allanmore. A (second) public meeting is to be held in Braemar Village Hall at 4-7pm on 29 October 2024.

It is understood that application may be made to raise the level of Loch Muick, in order to ensure water supply to the hydro works just above the Falls of Muick in dry periods. This seems likely to mean path alterations at the head and perhaps the foot of the loch.

Work at Bovaglie has commenced, with the new diversionary path established through the wood behind the houses.

### **The ‘Sawdust Fusiliers’**

The above is the title of a small (130pp) booklet in the University Library, recording the World War Two activities in the Scottish Highlands of the Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC). It was written by William C. Wonders, a Canadian geographer who died in 2011; his name is attached to the largest academic map collection in Canada. Out of 33 camps in Scotland as a whole, there were six on Deeside, at Blackhall (west of Banchory), Ballogie (two camps), Glentarnar, Abergeldie (near Pannanich) and Mar Lodge (west of Muir Cottage). The district HQ was at Aboyne, and training courses were held at Park House, Drumoak. The relative openness of cultivated Scottish forests compared to natural Canadian ones helped, and social relations were excellent, but rain and boggy ground often interrupted operations, and the men had to be told to cut close to the ground rather than higher up. A photograph shows the hill behind Mar Lodge shorn of trees.

### **Deer Culling**

NatureScot has launched two pilot schemes to support the control of deer. These will enable qualified and eligible deer stalkers to receive a payment for additional deer culled over and above the level currently controlled in the area, and thus help to achieve an increase in the national cull of 25% or 50,000 deer each year across all species, as needed to achieve Scottish Biodiversity Strategy targets. One pilot covers an area north of Glasgow and west of Stirling, and will focus on lowland and urban roe deer as well as expanding red deer populations. The second will cover an area on the south-eastern side of Loch Ness, and focus on invasive non-native sika deer in native and commercial woodland. The Cairngorms National Park Authority will run a third scheme to reduce red deer hind numbers in the Park. A map of deer densities based on 2000-2010 deer counts is viewable at [cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/authority/consultations/issue-2-deer-moorland-management/](http://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/authority/consultations/issue-2-deer-moorland-management/).

# Club Office-Bearers and Other Positions

<b>Hon. President</b>	Robbie Middleton (honpresident@cairngormclub.org.uk)
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