



Glenrothes Hillwalkers Club

Affiliated to the Mountaineering Council of Scotland



Monthly Newsletter – May 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the May newsletter, with a roundup of news on walks, weekends, and other Club news, including news of yet another Munro completion.

Contributions from members are always welcome - you can email them to the Secretary at secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk.

Walks

The **April walk** on Sunday 16th saw 16 members heading for the Borders for 2 planned walks. Three members on the C walk were dropped off first in Lauder to walk the Southern Upland Way to Melrose. The other 13 were dropped off in Maxton, South of Melrose, and then walked St Cuthbert's Way along the River Tweed to Newtown St Boswells before heading to Bowden. By this time it was raining, so we took shelter next to the Pant Well before heading off to the col between Eildon Mid Hill and Eildon North Hill. Everyone then climbed Mid Hill, descended back to the col, and most then climbed North Hill. After that it was back down a very muddy path and interminable steps to get into Melrose to meet the bus.



A convenient bench for a photo stop with the Eildon Hills in the background .



Grey skies and low cloud on Eildon Mid Hill

The **May walk** on Sunday 14th is to the Dalwhinnie area, with both the A and B walks climbing 2 Munros, albeit on opposite sides of the A9. The C walk goes from Dalwhinnie to Ben Alder Lodge, with an option of ascending The Fara (911m). All 3 walks end at the Snack Shack café in Dalwhinnie.

We have a 33 seat bus ordered, and still have seats available. To book please contact Brian Robertson on 01333 278632 or email secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk .

Weekends

The April Club Weekend saw 12 members staying at the Bearnock Country Centre near Drumnadrochit. A cunning plan involving boat drop offs and pickups to get into remote Munros around Loch Mullardoch and Glen Affric was scuppered by the cancellation of boat trips for the weekend. Despite that, members were out all round the area bagging Grahams, Corbetts and



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Munros despite some mixed weather. I was out with Steve Wood and Gordon Dickson on the Friday in Glen Affric to bag Toll Creagach and Tom a'Choinich, and we experienced just about every weather condition short of thunder and lightning. One minute it was raining, the next the sun was shining, and that was followed by horizontal snow.

The Saturday saw Janice Duncan, Allan Wilson, Andy Brown and I in Glen Affric again to bag 3 of Andy's last 4 Munros, (Mam Sodhail, Carn Eige and Beinn Fhionnlaidh) leaving him with only Beinn Sgritheall to complete – more of that later. The weather conditions were somewhat wintry, with a fresh overnight dusting of snow and a cold wind on the high ground, but the cloud stayed high so we got some great views across the mountains. Meanwhile other intrepid Club members were spread far and wide across the area, venturing as far as Loch Quoich.

Saturday evening saw the Bearnock heat of the World Kazoo Championships – not! Jim Anderson produced a game called “Name that Tune” using kazoos – the less said about that the better! All in all a great weekend.



Andy, Allan and Janice on the track up Coire Lechavie



A chilly group on the summit of Carn Eige



One to go!

The next **Club Weekend** is a 3 night stay at the Skywalker Hostel in Portnalong on the Isle of Skye on 2nd June. Bookings are now closed with 8 members booked in.



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The full programme is available on the [website](#). If you would like to go on any of the future weekends you can book and pay at a Club meeting, or contact Louise Cascarino by [email](#) or phone on 07708 628113.

Meetings

The **May meeting** on Tuesday 2nd saw 42 members listening to an excellent presentation by 3 members of the Markinch Heritage Group. The subjects covered included the history of Markinch Hill and the work done on the footpaths around it, and the industrial heritage of the River Leven.

The **next meeting** is on Tuesday 6th June, where our speaker will be Ben Dolphin, who writes and blogs on the Walkhighlands website – should be fascinating.

Club News

Congratulations to **Andy Brown** on completing his Munro round on Beinn Sgritheall on Saturday 6th May. It looks like the weather was fine – photos courtesy of Janice Duncan.





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Club Anniversary. In September the Club will celebrate its 30th anniversary – the first meeting was on 15 September 1987, with 35 people attending. The committee would like suggestions from the members as to how you would like to celebrate this significant milestone in the Club's history. Please email your ideas to the Secretary by 6 June so that the committee can consider them at the next meeting.

Club Subscriptions are due for renewal now. The Adult subscription for 2017-18 remains at £25 and can be paid in cash, by cheque at the meeting, or online – please ask for the account details for BACS transfers.

Navigation Training 3 students attended the latest Navigation Training weekend on 6-7 May. Congratulations to Carolyn McPherson, Kerry Ireland and Beverley Taylor on successfully completing the course.

Scrambling Steve Thurgood has kindly offered to take 4 members for a weekday evening of scrambling training on the cliffs at Rosyth. The aim is to familiarise members with basic rope skills and abseiling. Any member interested in taking part should contact the Training and Safety Officer, Fiona Frayser, by [email](#).

Markinch Heritage Group are holding a midsummer guided walk around the town on Saturday 24th June. From what we were told at the last meeting it sounds as if it will be fascinating, with group members in period costumes on hand to tell walkers about local history. More details of timings and location will be sent out when known.

The Club relies on **volunteers** to help out with running the door and making refreshments at the monthly indoor meeting. If you would like to help out at future meetings, please put your name down on the roster [here](#).

Brian Robertson

Secretary and editor

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