



# GLENROTHES HILLWALKERS CLUB



## Monthly Newsletter – October 2017

### Introduction

Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter, this is a bumper edition as there was no September newsletter due to the editor being inconsiderate enough to have a holiday! There is much to report on, not least our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event at the Gilvenbank Hotel on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and yet another 2 Munro compleatists. Jim Anderson has also submitted a report and pictures on the Rum weekend at the end of July. We also have some exciting news about Eggheads.

Contributions from members are always welcome - you can email them to the Secretary at [secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk](mailto:secretary@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk).

### Walks

**August.** There were 22 people on the bus to the Lochearnhead area on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Most people found the A & B walks to Stuc a'Chroin and ben Vorlich quite hard. The weather was mostly dry with the odd shower, but cloudier and windier than forecast. However the visibility was excellent and the views made up for the lack of sunshine, which, as usual, appeared very late in the day. There was one self-led walk taking in the two Corbetts in Glen Kendrum. Everyone had a good day, especially the C group who finished at a pub.

**September.** On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> the Club headed to the Bridge of Orchy area, with 14 people in the minibus. Another 4 members travelled by car and took in 2 Munros. Four members climbed Stob Ghabhar on the A walk, six climbed Stob a'Choire Odhair on the B walk, and six walked the West Highland Way from the Glencoe Ski Centre via Victoria Bridge to the Inverarnan Hotel on the C walk. Unfortunately the C walkers arrived at the hotel at 2 pm and then had to wait 3 hours for the others to arrive, but they did say that they walked quickly and did not stop for lunch on the way!

**October.** The next Club walk is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October, with 3 walks planned in the Luss area. You can find more details of the walks in the [walks programme](#). It is disappointing to report that only 9 members have signed up so far, so we may have to cancel the bus and revert to using cars unless more members sign up. The decision has to be made on Wednesday 11th, so if you would like to go on the walk please contact June Smith ASAP by [email](#) or phone on 01592 745613.

**November.** The November walk on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> will be followed by High Tea at the Atholl Arms Hotel in Blair Atholl. The menu is available [here](#).

**Bus Booking Conditions.** There have also been questions about the policy on cancellations and refunds for the bus. Please see the booking conditions on the [walks](#) page of our website for the current policy.

### Weekends

**Rum Bunkhouse.** Jim Anderson has kindly submitted a report on this weekend trip at the end of July.

After a few late call-offs we had a total of 8 members staying at the Rum Bunkhouse at the end of July. The weather for the ferry trip over from Mallaig was a bit grey, but thankfully the sea was smooth enough for the wine and gin glasses on the ladies' table not to be disturbed.

The bunkhouse is run by the community and is a lovely modern facility overlooking the bay. The rain started that afternoon and was on and off all weekend, thankfully the bunkhouse had a very efficient drying room.



That evening, Jim, Colin and Steve had a bike run to the lovely bay of Kilmory encountering large herds of red deer on the way and visiting an abandoned village and cemetery. The area is the centre of a long-running study into the habits of these creatures, including their surprising alleged habit of eating seabirds for extra calcium.

Next day the boys took their bikes to Harris, site of the Bullough family mausoleum and then the rough path to the delightful bothy at Guirdle, meeting Wendy, Wanda, Kate, Janice and Sandra on the way. Unfortunately the route was barred for the girls by a tricky river crossing.

The boys made it over without getting too wet and had a very enjoyable downhill ride back into the village, startling a few deer on the way. That evening we had dinner at the community-run tearoom preceded by some of Wendy's special gin infused with all sorts of goodies. Due to a shortage of glasses we had to improvise and use egg cups !



Later that evening, some of our group braved the wind and rain to attend a late-night walk to the island's Manx Shearwater colony where they gained an insight into these remarkable birds from the island's resident expert. After a 3am return for the birders and a few drams in the bunkhouse for the others it was a bit of a late start on the Sunday. The boys visited the island's other bothy at Dibidil which has fantastic views of Eigg, Ardnamurchan and Skye. The low cloud prevented any views inland to the Rum Cuillin though, unfortunately.

Later that evening we visited the nearby otter hide and were rewarded by sightings of heron, eider duck, seals and, just as we were about to leave, a large otter.

On Monday, we had a few hours before the return ferry and were led on a guided wildlife walk by the island's ranger who was very knowledgeable about the island's flora and fauna. Jim and Steve fitted in a quick tour of Kinloch Castle and its intriguing history before the ferry trip back, when finally the sun came out and we enjoyed some lovely views of the Small Isles.



A Rum bunch - L to R Wanda, Wendy, Colin, Sandra, Janice, Kate and Steve (+Jim on camera)

**August and September.** In August the Club returned to the Ariundle Centre in Strontian for the second year. In September the Club went to the SYHA hostel at Ullapool. Unfortunately, I have not had a report on either trip, so perhaps someone who was there would like to send me a report?

**October.** The last weekend of the year is a 2 night stay at the Abernethy Bunkhouse in Nethy Bridge on 27<sup>th</sup> October. There are 10 members signed up, but we have exclusive use of the bunkhouse so there is plenty of room if anyone else would like to join in. Please contact Louise Cascarino – contact details below.

**Weekends 2018.** Our Weekend Convener, Louise Cascarino, is working on the programme for next year. If you have any suggestions for a hostel, bunkhouse or hut, please contact Louise by [email](#) or phone on 07718 793712.

### **Meetings**

The **September** meeting was due to see a welcome return by Keela, our local outdoor clothing manufacturer, but they cancelled at the last minute. Gary Kerr was fortunately able to arrange a speaker at short notice. John Minhinick, a former employee of the Meteorological Office, gave a very interesting talk about the history of weather forecasting.

The **October** meeting saw 46 members attending a special event to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club at the Gilvenbank Hotel in Glenrothes. The first ever meeting of the Glenrothes Hillwalkers and Ramblers Club took place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1987, with 35 people in attendance.

We started with a buffet, followed by a fascinating talk by our guest speaker, Hamish Brown MBE. Hamish told us about his traverse of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco with lots of amusing anecdotes about his experiences. Hamish then cut the cake and drew the raffle for us. Thanks are due to Janice Thomson and Prue Hadfield who organised a display of photographs covering the past history of the Club.

The evening seemed to go well, as evidenced by these photos kindly provided by Jim Anderson.



The cake



Some of our more senior members – and Tarn!



One of the tables



Hamish cuts the cake

The **November** meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> will see us moving to a larger room in The Lomond Centre which should be less cramped and also cooler than the one we have used up to now. Our speaker will be talking about the planned Fife Pilgrim's Way.

Every year at the **December** meeting we raffle off a set of Christmas hampers, with the proceeds of the raffle going towards our annual donation to our chosen Mountain Rescue Team. The contents of the hampers are made up from donations of food and drink. Last year you were very generous with your donations, and we would like to ask you to do the same again this year. Please bring your donations along to the November meeting.

### **Club News**

**Munro Completions.** No it's not a spelling mistake – that is the way the Scottish Mountaineering Club spells it! September was a busy month for the Club, with 2 members reaching the magic 282 Munros. Congratulations to Julie Garland for finishing her round on Beinn Alligan, and to Jim Anderson for finishing his on Ben More on Mull. By the look of the photos it was rather wet on both occasions!



Julie on her final Munro summit



A rather damp looking Guard of Honour



Jim at the start of his ascent of his final Munro – Ben More on Mull



A happy but damp group on the summit with Jim and his son Alex

**Walking Holidays.** Committee member June Smith ran an online survey in August to gauge interest in walking holidays. There were 34 responses to the questionnaire, of which 80% said they would be interested in such a trip. Of those, 90% said they would be interested in going to

Europe, and 70% the UK. The preferred time of going was September to October, and June is now looking for expressions of interest in 2 possible options in September 2018; one in Morocco and one in Andalucía. A letter was sent out by email on 24<sup>th</sup> September, a copy of which is attached in case you missed it. The deadline given was 3<sup>rd</sup> October, but I am sure that June would welcome any additional takers at this stage.

**Eggheads.** The Club was contacted by the producers of the Eggheads quiz on BBC2 and asked to put in a team. After some rapid emailing we were able to submit an application in time to meet the deadline of midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> September – thanks to all those who expressed an interest. After subsequently submitting individual video auditions and lots of paperwork, I am pleased to report that our team, Best Foot Forward, has been pencilled in for filming at the BBC studios in Glasgow on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. I am told that we are still not guaranteed to be filmed, and will only know for sure when we are shaking hands with Jeremy Vine in the studio!

Our team comprises Jim Anderson, Bob Barlow, Colin Clark, Kevin Tolmie and myself as captain, with Ian Morris as travelling reserve. As yet we have no idea when the episode might be shown, but will let you know when we find out.

**Volunteers.** 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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## WALKING HOLIDAYS

Dear Club member,

I recently sent out a survey via email. The survey asked about whether the club members would be interested in undertaking a foreign walking holiday as a group. The response was high with around 35 people replying. Of those 35 people over 90% were in favour of a walking holiday. Of that 90%, there was even split between a trip to Europe or one further afield.

I am therefore going to organise a trip for September 2018. Before I do so, I need to know if the take up would be better for Europe or Morocco. I am therefore sending this final choice before I start the organisation. Below find 2 options with brief outline of trip and approximate price. I am not looking for a definite commitment at this stage but do want to organise something that will attract the maximum number of people. There will be some fluctuation around price. Both are 8 day tours. The Spanish walking will be easier than the Moroccan .

### **Choice 1 – Morocco.**

**Cost around 700 pounds including flights. Flights not direct from Scotland.**

#### Highlights

- A non-technical ascent of the highest mountain in North Africa
- Acclimatisation walks amid beautiful remote Berber villages
- Magnificent panoramic views from the summit of Mt Toubkal
- Optional ascent of Mt Ouanakrim
- Time to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of Marrakech

#### Key information

- 4 nights camping, 1 night gite with shared facilities and 2 nights 3-star hotel in en suite rooms
- 5 days point-to-point walking
- Altitude maximum 4167m, average 2600m
- Travel by minibus

#### What's included

- All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners

### **Choice 2: Andalucia**

Cost around 1000 pounds including flights from Scotland

#### Highlights

- Stay in a converted farmhouse with swimming pool
- Discover the fascinating Moorish history of white villages
- Experience the real and authentic Spain

- Walk the stunning Camino del Rey

Key information

- 7 nights in a comfortable converted farmhouse with pool
- 5 days centre-based walking
- Altitude maximum 1256m, average 612m
- Travel by minibus

What's included:

- All breakfasts, 5 picnic lunches and 6 evening meals are included
- All accommodation
- Transfer for group flights
- Camino del Rey walk

**Please hand in your reply to any committee member or send to June Smith by October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 - my email is [buses@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk](mailto:buses@glenrotheshillwalkers.co.uk)**

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I am interested in undertaking a walking holiday in September 2018	YES/ NO
I am interested in the Moroccan option	YES/ NO
I am interested in the Spanish option	YES/ NO