

## THE CLUB HUTS

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MUIR Cottage, at Inverey, and Derry Lodge, in Glen Lui, were opened in 1950 and 1951 respectively, to provide accommodation of climbing hut standard within easy reach of the main Cairngorm and Upper Deeside summits. Since their opening many improvements have been made, and for the benefit of members who have not visited them and of members of other mountaineering clubs who may be interested, it has been felt desirable to give a short resume of the facilities at present provided.

### MUIR OF INVEREY

Muir of Inverey is a single-storey stone building with wooden annexe situated at the west end of the wood a few hundred yards beyond Little Inverey, 6 miles from Braemar, on the north side of the road to Linn of Dee. It is a typical upper Deeside cottage, comprising a living-room, used as a kitchen and sitting-room, and three bedrooms, two in the annexe which is entered from within the cottage.

Each bedroom is equipped with two double-tier wooden beds with spring and flock mattresses and four blankets. Sheets or sleeping bags must be provided by residents. The total accommodation is twelve: one bedroom is normally reserved for ladies, and the acceptable number may therefore be reduced.

Cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery for twelve are provided. Cooking and lighting are by electricity, for which a slot meter is installed. An adequate supply of pennies and shillings should therefore be taken.

Spring water is laid on to a sink in the living-room and a limited amount of coal is provided for heating. There are ample supplies of waste timber in the near vicinity and residents are expected to replace any wood which they may burn and so maintain the stock. There is one external Elsan sanitation unit.

The local caretaker of Muir of Inverey is Mr McDougal, Bellaneye Cottage, Inverey, from whose wife supplies of tinned foods may frequently be obtainable. Fresh milk and eggs are often to be had in the vicinity, and Messrs Collie, general grocers, Braemar, deliver

by van on Fridays. No supplies of food are available in the hut, and none must be left after occupation.

Access to Muir of Inverey is often possible in winter when the road to Derry Lodge is blocked, and it then provides reasonable facilities for ski-ing, as well as convenient access to the Glen Ey hills and the An Sgarsoch and Glen Tilt groups.

### DERRY LODGE

Derry Lodge, a twelve-roomed two-storey granite shooting lodge, is situated at the confluence of the Derry and Luibeg burns, at the commencement of the Lairig Ghru and Lairig an Laoigh paths and at the end of the private road which leaves the Linn of Dee to Mar Lodge road about half a mile east of the Linn.

A locked gate at the entrance to this road prevents unauthorised vehicular access: a wicket gate permits the passing of pedestrians and cyclists. A key for this gate is obtainable from Mrs Gordon, Victoria Bridge Lodge, Inverey, at a daily charge of 2s. 6d. The Huts Custodian issues a certificate, to be surrendered to Mrs Gordon, which, by arrangement with the Factor of the Fife Estates, permits the key to be retained over the period of residence at Derry Lodge for the single daily fee. During the stalking season keys are available only to intending residents at Derry Lodge and this certificate is necessary in order to obtain one. Members and guests intending to travel to Derry Lodge by private car should therefore advise the Huts Custodian to this effect. Keys are not normally available to anyone when the road is in a soft condition and liable to be damaged by traffic.

Walkers proceeding to Derry should cross the Dee by the timber bridge built by the Canadian Forestry Corps; vehicles gain little by taking this route, which is considerably rougher than the road by the Linn.

The plan accompanying this article shows the general lay-out of the lodge, but in certain instances the utilisation of the rooms has been modified since it was drawn.

The lower front rooms provide lounge (1) and dining-room (2) accommodation. Room (3) is at present not in use and (4) is equipped as a drying-room. The main kitchen (6) is provided with heating and cooking stoves and with rural-gas cookers. During the winter months, danger of freezing prohibits the use of the hot-water supply. Piped water is however available in winter in the scullery and ground-floor W.C., and in summer also in the fully equipped bathroom.

Eighteen beds with spring and other mattresses and four emergency camp beds with straw palliasses provide accommodation for twenty-two in the six bedrooms, which are allocated to individual parties by the Huts Custodian. Sheets or sleeping bags must be provided by residents. Lighting by rural gas is provided downstairs. In the bedrooms, paraffin lamps or candles are employed and residents are reminded of the danger of fire in an isolated building of this nature. No fires should be lighted in the bedrooms. Mr R. Scott who resides at Luibeg Cottage and who is authorised to supervise the lodge, may require residents to show their booking vouchers from the Huts Custodian. It should be noted that climbing boots are prohibited in most of the rooms and alternative footwear should be taken.

Cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery for eighteen are provided. In addition to rural-gas cooking facilities, a limited amount of coal and timber, which may have to be sawn, is available for cooking and heating. On no account should residents take timber of any description other than from the wood store without first obtaining the consent of Mr Scott.

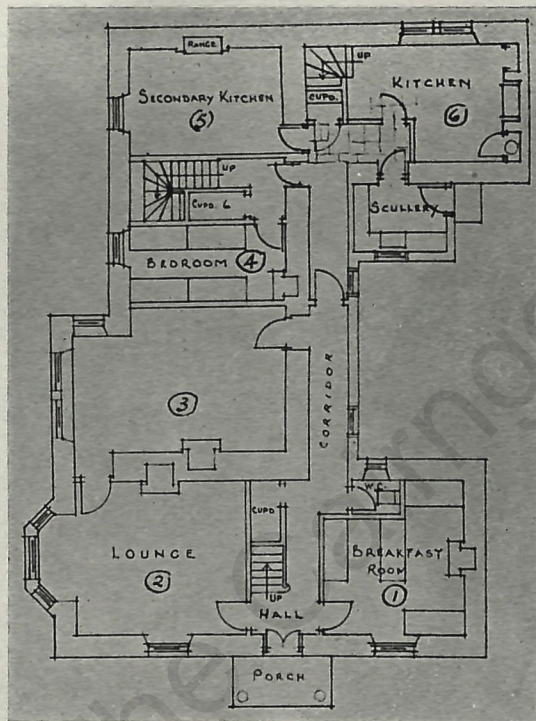
No supplies are available at Derry and none should be left there at the end of a visit. Braemar (10 miles) is the nearest source of supply and parties should provide their own food. Postal deliveries are intermittent, particularly in winter.

During the stalking season, when Derry Lodge is available only to members and personal guests, Mr Scott should be consulted regarding the routes to be taken, and his advice accepted in order to avoid disturbing stalkers.

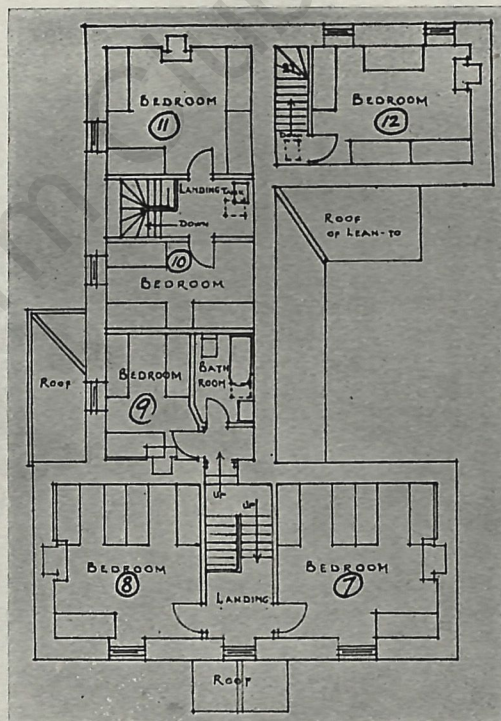
Mountain Rescue First Aid equipment is stored in the cupboard adjoining the drying-room. The key is available from Mr Scott.

### BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS

Both huts are available to members of the Cairngorm Club and their guests and to members of approved clubs. Cairngorm Club members should apply direct to the Huts Custodian; members of other clubs should make bookings through their own club secretaries. As mentioned above, Derry Lodge is confined to Cairngorm Club members and guests during the stalking season: during July, August and September special exclusive booking arrangements may be in operation at Muir of Inverey. Charges are liable to revision; at present members and relatives under 16 pay 2s. 6d. per night; other guests and members of other clubs 4s. per night, at both huts, inclusive



GROUND FLOOR



UPPER FLOORS

PLAN OF DERRY LODGE

of all charges except breakages. The Huts Custodian is Mr Robert Bain, Viewfield, Milltimber, Aberdeenshire (Tel. : Culter 3174), from whom alone keys are normally available. It is therefore essential to book in advance. Members are reminded that the hut facilities are available during the day for a fee of 1s. 6d. per person.

These huts provide facilities for climbers in an area where previously they were lacking and the Club is therefore particularly indebted to the Trustees of the Fife Estates for granting the leases of the huts, and to their Factor, Mr Munro, for his helpful co-operation at all times.

