

IN MEMORIAM

The Club records with regret the death of the following members :

Mr William A. Baxter	(O 1960)	Miss Juliet Hardy	(A 1978)
Dr Edna M. Beyts	(OL 1967)	Mrs Geraldine Howie	(O 1979)
Mr William A.J. Bryce	(A 1993)	Mrs Sylvia M. Simpson	(O 1973)
Mrs M. Lyra Crawford	(O 1935)	Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards	(OL 1947)
Mrs Maureen M. Duthie	(O 1979)		

GERALDINE HOWIE

Geraldine Howie died at home in Auchterhouse on September 20, 1997. She joined the Club in 1979, and was a committee member 1980-83 and again between 1988-90. Not only will she be remembered as a walking 'phenomenon', currently holding the record for the greatest number of Munro rounds completed by a woman, but as a superb cook, appearing at Club barbecues with wonderful vegetarian dishes.

Born in Essex in 1942, she came to Scotland with her first husband Alan in the late 1970's. After their divorce she started to hill walk, driven from the beginning by the desire to become the most prolific female Munroist. She completed her first round on Ben Starav in October 1981, the second with a round of the tops on Ben More, Crianlarich three years later. Although intent on setting this record, she had a deep interest and love of all aspects of the Scottish countryside, including ornithology and botany. On rainy days she often visited ancient monuments.

From 1980 -1989 she was personal assistant to the boss of the oil company Texaco in Aberdeen. I visited her once at work to find an elegant, well-groomed creature, in stark contrast to the tidy, but often wet and muddy hill walker I knew at weekends. She loved the remoteness of Knoydart, the ruggedness of Skye but shunned the Alps, believing them to be too busy. She first walked abroad in 1992 when she successfully climbed Kilimanjaro. Her first round of the Corbetts ended on Canisp in 1986; her second, probably also a record, on Sgurr Dhomhuill in 1995. Her dedication to her task was amazing. She once required stitches to a laceration in her knee. A week after the accident, stitches still in situ, she ascended Meall Greigh. "OK going up" she said, "but was embarrassed on the descent as I could only go one way, walking down in a very long traverse, just like a haggis!" In 1987 she completed the Furths of Scotland, her third round of Munros and second of Tops. In 1990 and 1992 her fourth and fifth rounds were finished. During a trip to Bolivia in 1994, however, something was obviously wrong. Despite her usual tremendous enthusiasm, her walking ability seemed strangely blunted. A year later Motor Neurone Disease was diagnosed, a particularly cruel blow to someone so active. In 1995 she completed her sixth, and what

was to be her final round of Munros on Braeriach, struggling to reach the summit in six hours, a walk which she would previously have done in half the time. She died peacefully in her sleep two years later, survived by her second husband Robin, who had been her constant hill companion since 1982.

R.B.I.F.

WILLIAM A BAXTER

Bill Baxter was born in Aberdeen in 1908. After training as a lawyer, he worked for the Aberdeen City Council and was latterly Deputy City Chamberlain. Joining the Club in 1960, he became a committee member two years later and was Vice President from 1965-66. After retirement in 1973 and the death of his wife the following year, he 'took to the hills' with Ken and Tibbbie Fraser and other friends whenever conditions were favourable. They thrived on these expeditions, returning with tales of fighting their way through dense forestry plantations on compass bearings and other hilarious incidents. Over the years he developed an intimate knowledge of most of the Scottish mountains, and was always generous with detailed advice for those of us with less experience. His sense of fun was infectious, and he will be remembered for the happy atmosphere which always seemed to surround him.

I.F.