

IN MEMORIAM

The Club notes with regret the deaths of the following members since publication of the previous *Journal*:

(date of admission to the Club; type of Club membership; Club service)

Jean Arthur (1953; Ordinary Life; Committee 1957-66, 1970-73)

James Christie (1972; Associate)

Bill Foubister (1981; Ordinary)

Tibby Fraser (1965; Ordinary; Committee 1975-78)

Elizabeth Friend (1989; Associate)

Jeff Knowles (2002; Associate)

John MacLachlan (1963; Associate)

A. Sommerville (1931; Ordinary Life)

Alison Wolstencroft (2000; Associate)

ELIZABETH FRIEND

Elizabeth died on March 26th 2005 aged 66. Born on Speyside, her early hill-walking began at school when a group of pupils went regularly by open lorry to the old Glenmore Lodge, walking in the Cairngorms with an enthusiastic teacher. She always loved the hills, made walking part of every family holiday, and after her three children had grown up she returned to hill-walking with a major triumph, along Liathach from end to end, on a perfect summer day. Subsequently she was a regular participant on bus meets and on several weekend meets, and she also went hill walking with her 'Speyside gang', a group of four old friends who met every six weeks or so for a walk and an evening of feasting and jollity.

Of her early Club days a friend writes: "Elizabeth suggested that I came with her on a bus meet about 20 years ago. After going several times as a guest with her and her husband James, she encouraged me to join. James was often on call on a Sunday, so we went together. I used to pick up her rucksack and drive it to Queen's Cross, whilst she limbered up by walking. I remember climbing Mt. Keen for the 100th anniversary and we moaned about the long walk in. For Elizabeth (and me) it was a light-hearted complaint and once we got to the top we were laughing, enjoying the photo pose and as usual Elizabeth was chatting to everyone. If you were in trouble on a hill she was helpful and practical. When you felt like giving up she chivvied you on with phrases like 'of course you can get there'. Once we were walking near Loch Muick in horizontal sleet and hail, when she said, 'this is awful, we don't have to do this walk', so we sneaked back to the bus early. Elizabeth was always full of life and fun to be with. I knew her for over thirty years and I miss her badly."

Of more recent times another friend writes: "We both joined the mid-week walking group at about the same time after we had retired, and often shared transport. Elizabeth was comfortable in the hills. An experienced walker, she had an infectious enthusiasm for walking in all conditions, but she was not competitive. She was content to ramble gently or to walk determinedly to 'the top', according to

circumstances. Elizabeth was always good company and we talked about everything under the sun. She was quietly knowledgeable about the hills, the plant life and the birds. She is sorely missed.²⁷ Her last mid-week walk was as joint leader with James, of a tour of the Balmoral Cairns in November 2004, just a few weeks after major surgery for the bowel tumour which caused her death.

Elizabeth's professional work in nursing and then in health visiting allowed her to use her caring and common sense skills. Latterly she was Motor Neurone Disease Care Adviser for the whole of the north of Scotland including the Northern and Western Isles, a post which involved much travelling. She accomplished this very stressful work with immense sensitivity and gave hugely valued support to patients and their carers. Elizabeth was a dearly loved mother, grandmother and wife. She leaves an abiding memory of someone who was a bright light in any gathering, and with a prodigious capacity to care and to love. For those who knew her, the hills will be a little quieter and certainly less fun.

Various Club Members

TIBBIE FRASER

Mrs. Isabella Fraser, who joined the Club in 1965, was always known as Tibbie, apparently from the very start of her life due to her father's concerns over a ewe and his favorite sheepdog. She was always full of energy and enthusiasm for all she did – the descriptor that comes to mind is 'sprightly'!

Tibbie and her husband Kenneth both contributed to changing the Club 'atmosphere'. In late 1965, when I joined the Club, their warm and enthusiastic welcome on my first bus meet differed from the politeness of the 'old school'. Soon it was clear that Tibbie and Kenneth were determined to encourage more young people to join – in those days the average age on a FULL bus must have been close to sixty! Many adventures were shared, Munros conquered, and there were weekends away in other Club Huts. Tibbie always enthused: "I love rock" as we scrambled in Skye, Glencoe and elsewhere. Tibbie and Kenneth completed their Munros simultaneously, and were congratulated as the 'we twa' of the Club.

Work took Kenneth and Tibbie to Perth for a few years, but contacts were well maintained and they retired back to Aberdeen. Along with Bill Baxter, Lewis McAllan, Sandy Black and others, they formed an active group in addition to attending bus meets. The Club's midweek walks were a regular enjoyment until Kenneth's death. Fairly soon after that Tibbie moved out to Aboyne, but still joined in activities as often as possible, coming in to town for the Dinner with her daughter Elizabeth.

In the late 1960s Kenneth was Custodian of Muir Cottage, a role very much shared with Tibbie. A very happy memory is of a creosoting brigade of young(ish!) women members – Tibbie kept hoping she'd find husbands for them all!

After Tibbie's death there was a small family funeral, then a memorial service in Aboyne, at which the Club was well represented, a fitting tribute to a member who added so much to the enjoyment of the Scottish hills and to Club activities.

Ruth Payne