

## THE PRESIDENT

**Anne Pinches** was elected President of the Club at the 2009 AGM, in succession to Eilidh Scobbie. Anne writes:

“Hills have been part of my landscape since I was born. There's a view of the Campsies from the kitchen window of the home in which I was brought up and where my Mum still lives. Venture outside and you can see Ben Lomond and the Arrochar Alps.

As a family my brothers and I were taken to wild places on camping holidays where the Niger tent was erected after the 'usual' facilities were located by Dad, which would include a nearby farm from which to collect milk for breakfast. I shall be forever grateful for the interest and encouragement shown by my parents in my hillwalking and other outdoor activities.

My first Munro was Ben Lomond, achieved on a family trip the summer after I had been on a winter school 'taster' trip to Glenmore Lodge. However, it wasn't until I arrived in Aberdeen to begin work that I really got started hillwalking. I stayed in digs at Dot Batchelor's and through Dot became a member of the Cairngorm Club in 1974. I had been on the committee twice before becoming Vice President in 1995. In 2006 I took over as Social Activities Secretary. It was during one stint as a committee member that I helped to organise one of the first weekend meets as we know them today.

I have been fortunate that through my work I was able to introduce many youngsters to the pleasures of the outdoors through the hillwalking club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Hazlehead Academy run by Ian Spence and also later at Northfield Academy.

I completed my Munros on The Buachaille in 1989 and then began another chapter in my life when Derek proposed to me at the summit.

I have gained so much from being a part of the Cairngorm Club and have especially enjoyed many wonderful trips to Muir in the company of family and fellow club members. I feel very humbled to follow in the footsteps of so many wonderful people as President of the Cairngorm Club.”