

THE NEW PRESIDENT
HELEN RUSSELL

“I was born and grew up in Ayrshire and went to school in Ayr. My interest in hills and mountains didn't manifest itself until I was in my early thirties when I came back to live in Scotland after living in Italy and America for work. While living abroad many people told me how lucky I was to come from such a beautiful country; however, I was ashamed to admit that I had not visited most of Scotland's beauty spots. This sparked an interest and a desire to get to know my own country more and when I returned, I joined some walking clubs. One of my most memorable first experiences was an overnight walk with the Cairngorm Club where we watched the most spectacular sunset and sunrise over Ben Nevis, despite not being able to feel my hands and feet while we bivouacked for a few hours on a Mamore summit.

I probably then climbed around thirty to forty Munros over the next few years, but it was restricted as a result of starting a family and working full time, so my desire to get into the mountains had to take a back seat while I focused on family life and building a career. When my daughters reached their teens and I started to have more free time this allowed me to do more walking and enabled me to start my Munro-bagging journey

Retirement in 2022, and the purchase of a campervan, has significantly increased the number of visits to the hills, along with being appointed the Club's Weekend Meets Secretary - a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I now have two Munros left to do in 2024 and it will be a privilege to complete whilst I am President. I have also started on the journey to complete the Corbetts and hope to enjoy it as much as I have enjoyed walking the Munros.

I was elected as President in November this year and would like to thank Garry Wardrope (our previous President) for his efforts and contributions during his tenure. Membership numbers in the Club have recently increased and I hope that this trend will continue. I also hope that my time as President will ensure that the Club stays current and in line with what the members want. To this end we are working on a survey which will help inform the committee. I am looking forward to being more involved with managing the Club and I hope that I will be able to contribute to maintaining it in good health and facilitating its growth to future-proof it for many years to come.”



Stob Gabhar

Photo credit Jamie Vince

