

June 2025



The Cairngorm Club

Established 1887

Registered Charity

Number - SC047567

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Editor Colin Brown

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The Newsletter of the Cairngorm Club

New Members Evening

The Club held a New Members Evening at Bonnymuir Green in May to help market the Club and encourage interested parties to join.

This was in response to our survey results last year when we agreed that an increased marketing initiative may help increase membership and attract more younger members to join. Many thanks to Club members Kevin Adam, Sue Chalmers, Mike Duguid, William Ellwood, Vay Mutch and Garry Wardrope for providing interesting talks about their climbing and walking activities which contributed to making the evening a great success.

Several of the attendees have already expressed an interest in becoming a member.

Merchandise

We have had a good response to the new merchandise this year. The hoodies and T-shirts have been very popular, and it's great to see our members wearing them at Club events.

If you are interested in ordering an item please contact Helen Russell, indicating which garment, colour and size, and transfer funds to the Cairngorm Club account. Details of the items available can be found via a link on the Home page of the Club website at <https://www.cairngormclub.org.uk/index.htm>.

The items are sourced from Funky Panther which is a local firm that you can visit at <https://www.funkypanther.co.uk> if you wish to see the quality of the garments. Note: check they are in stock before you visit but please **do not** order directly from them.

If there is popular interest in other garments we will look to add more items to order.

Club BBQ

The summer BBQ has been booked at RNUC for 2nd August 2025 (Saturday at 6pm). The cost will be £25 per head with refreshments at attendee's own cost. Please contact Tom Litterick by email at social@cairngormclub.org.uk for more information or to book.

Mid-Week (or Thursday) Walks

This longstanding and popular series of Club meets will come under new management ("coordination" in the jargon) this summer, when Joyce Ritchie steps down after 6 years of yeowomanly service in that role, and I am destined to take over. The usual parameters will remain much as before:

- the last Thursday of each month (except December)
- car-sharing from the lower section of Kingswells Park & Ride
- a drive of no more than an hour and a quarter
- 4 to 5 hours of walking including stops, usually involving a hill if not coastal, and
- a visit to a local café afterwards.

I will liaise with designated Meet Organisers (MOs) for the rest of 2025, and plan the 2026 programme with them and hopefully other MOs in August. In the meantime, ideas and volunteers will be welcome!

Ken Thomson

Privacy Notice

The Club Privacy Notice has been updated to include the new email management provider. This can be read at <https://cairngormclub.org.uk/membership/CCPrivacyNotice020525.pdf>

Club Communications

Problems with email communications persist. We have populated a new list for outgoing emails and sent a welcome message to all members. If you unsubscribe from the list, you will not receive information from the Club. Newsletters will be circulated in February, June and October each year.

In other months, we will send one message with the latest calendar of Club activities. The first of these should have landed in your Inbox on 21st May; if it's not there check your Junk/Spam folder.

Meet Secretaries are encouraged to submit updates to membership@cairngormclub.org.uk for inclusion in these bulletins.

For now, we will continue to use the GoogleGroup. This allows members to post group messages to other members. We encourage all members to join but a proportion of members have not signed up and some now cannot be added without a gmail/googlemail address. Please contact membership@cairngormclub.org.uk to request addition to the group.

Once subscribed, members can post messages by emailing cairngorm-club@googlegroups.com. Please include a "reply-to" address to prevent replies being sent to all members. Past messages can be read at <https://groups.google.com/g/cairngorm-club>

Montane Planting

The Spey Catchment Initiative, a "partnership" charity set up alongside the Cairngorms National Park Authority, local councils and international businesses, is to plant about 30,000 native trees, including dwarf birch and montane willow, in Coire na Ciste on Cairn Gorm, at around 600m. The proposal has been heavily criticised by Nick Kempe in an article in his ParksWatchScotland website. Skiing infrastructure was closed down or removed from the Coire a number of years ago, although some viewed it as Cairngorm's best area for skiing since it holds snow longer.

Mountaineering Scotland

The Cairngorm Club is affiliated to Mountaineering Scotland (MS). Your Club subscription includes their membership fee but members may not be aware of some of the benefits this brings. As well as representation, information and advice, you have access to BMC travel insurance and a range of subsidised training courses. Discounts are available on a variety of goods and services through their website.

Mountaineering Scotland's magazine, *Scottish Mountaineer*, is available in print or by email (expected 2 June). They also distribute a monthly members news (sent 19 May) and ClimbScotland News, by email. If you are not receiving the preferred publications, please review "opt in preferences" in your MS membership profile or contact Donald Thomas by email at membership@cairngormclub.org.uk.

DAY MEETS

We have had some fine day trips since the last newsletter went out. In February the Glenshee Ski Centre was our destination. A majority climbed several Munros in the area, e.g. Glas Maol, Cairn of Claise and Carn an Tuirc. At the same time several members spent the day doing winter skills training with instruction from Guy Bromby.

We headed to Glen Feshie in March and most of the party climbed Sgor Gaoith. This was our second attempt after last year's visit proved too stormy to reach high ground.

April's meet was a traverse through the mist from Glen Esk to Glen Clova, taking in the summit of Ben Tirran, and a visit to what remains of the RAF Wellington bomber that crashed there in 1942.

The May trip to Beinn a' Bhuird went well; more details can be found on page 15.

There's been good attendance on these day meets and it's great to see a mix of new faces and seasoned club members coming along.

A small increase in the cost of our minibus meets will be introduced in June. From then, a charge of £18 (up from £15) will be asked for all our meets where we travel by minibus. This still represents very good value for money to members and I'm sure you'll understand that increased costs make this charge necessary.

There are some great trips planned for the coming months. On Sunday 22nd June we'll be travelling to Blair Atholl for a visit to Ben a'Ghlo, where its 3 Munros will be the target of the President's party.

Our July meet is an overnighiter at the remote Tarf Hotel bothy on Sat/Sun, 19th and 20th. A great chance for an adventure to this great location and accommodation.

A special coach trip to commemorate the Ben Macdui indicator centenary is planned for Saturday 9th August, when we will climb Scotland's 2nd highest from the Cairngorm Ski Centre.

For our annual September traverse this year, the President's party will be walking the Lairig Ghru from south to north, lunching at the Pools of Dee then exiting via the Chalamain Gap on the Rothiemurchus side.

A return to Perthshire on Sunday 18th October will have us heading to Ben Chonzie from Glen Lednock.

Details of all upcoming meets will be sent out by email closer to the dates, and can be seen on the website calendar.

Again, I'd like to thank the day meet organisers and minibus driving volunteers, whose efforts make these hill days happen.

Craig Thomson, Day Meets Secretary

Payments to the Club

The Club's business bank account is:

Name "Cairngorm Club"; Sort Code 83-15-31; A/C 19165508.

Please use the purpose of the payment as the reference e.g., "Traverse" or "Membership". Please do not include your name unless different from the account name, which is provided by the bank.

Cairngorm Club Subscriptions (1 Oct 2025 – 30 Sept 2026)

At the Club AGM in November 2024, the subscription rate for the above year was maintained at £13.00 (reduced rate £6.50) plus the Mountaineering Scotland affiliation fee. The MS affiliation fee (including the Civil Liability Insurance premium) for the year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 is £26.75

Subscriptions paid by Direct Debits will be collected on 1st October:

	Club	MS	Total
Full Rate	£13.00	£26.75	£39.75
Reduced Rate	£ 6.50	£26.75	£33.25

Members not paying by direct debit should arrange payment during October. The reduced rate applies to Club members who have informed the Treasurer that on 1st October 2025 they will be 65 or over, 21 or under, or in full-time education, or are normally resident and working more than 80 km from Aberdeen.

Members wishing to pay at the reduced rate should tell the Treasurer of the reason.

Members who do not participate in any Club-organised outside activity and do not use Muir Cottage may, if they desire, withdraw from paying the MS Affiliation Fee. Please discuss this with the Treasurer.

Members of multiple clubs (or Individual Members of MS) wishing to pay the MS affiliation fee other than through the Cairngorm Club should tell the Treasurer their MS membership number and which club it will be paid through if appropriate.

All members are encouraged to pay their subscription by Direct Debit and, where appropriate, to make a Gift Aid Declaration. Forms for each are available from the Treasurer.

Donald Thomas, Treasurer May 2025

treasurer@cairngormclub.org.uk

Day Meets

Further to the meets mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter, here are the rest of the Day meets for 2025:

Oct 18 (Sat)	Ben Chonzie	Minibus	Guy Bromby
Nov 16 (Sun)	Mount Battock	Minibus	Kolbjorn Akselvoll
Dec 14 (Sun)	The 'coloured' hills of Alford	Minibus	Tom Litterick

Weekend Meets

As above, here are the rest of the Weekend meets for 2025:

Oct 10 (2 nights)	Mol Mor, Torridon	Sue Miller
Nov 7 (2 nights)	Muir Cottage	Marj Ewan
Nov 21 (2 nights)	Inverardran, Crianlarich	Tony Jack
Dec 5 (2 nights)	Corran Hostel	Esperanza Martin

Midweek Walks

As above, here are the rest of the Midweek Walks for 2025:

Oct 30	Scolty Hill and Goauch	Judy Middleton
Nov 27	Barmekin Hill and Dunecht Estate	David Christie
Dec 11	Sgor na h'Iolaire	Richard Frimston

Stravaigs

As above, here are the rest of the Stravaigs for 2025:

Oct 17	Insch/Dunnydeer	Henry Webb
Nov 13**	Glen Tanar	Fiona Lyall
Dec 12	Potarch and Craigmore Woods circuit (with possible Christmas light lunch)	Richard and Gill Shirreffs

Stravaigs have proved to be very popular amongst members for a variety of reasons. Some of us are just slowing down a bit, but want to maintain our walking and our contact with members. Some have had health issues, with these walks enabling them to build up their walking fitness.

Walks tend to be approximately 6 miles, though we do try to build in a shorter route if it is needed.

This year, so far we have had an excellent mix of walks taking us on tracks and to areas which have been new to many of us.

** Please note the November Stravaig is **Thursday** 13th because the Club Dinner is Friday 14th.

Day Meets take place once a month and can be by coach, mini-bus, car, or service bus. Meets are generally on Sundays but occasionally on Saturdays. Members should contact the Meet Organiser to book a place. The organiser or Day Meets Secretary can be contacted if any additional information is sought.

Meets generally leave Aberdeen at St. Margaret's School, Albyn Place, at 7am, with pick-ups possible on the route out (which may vary with meet location). Departure times and cost are listed on pages 8 and 9 of this Newsletter. On all Meets, an organised "President's Party" walk will be available for those new to the Club or for members who simply want a day out without the challenge of route-finding or navigation. The following Day meets are offered for Summer 2025.

June 22, Ben a'Ghlo (Sunday)

A minibus day trip, starting from the Loch Moraig car park. The main party will walk the three Munros of Beinn a' Ghlo, starting with Carn Liath before crossing over to Bràigh Coire Chruinn-bhalgain and, finally, Càrn nan Gabhar. There are other options nearby which can be arranged with the driver. To book, contact Will Ellwood by email at ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk.

July 19, Tarf Hotel Overnighter (Saturday/Sunday)

This meet will be by minibus which will travel to Blair Atholl for the walk into the 'famous' Tarf Hotel. Don't expect luxury however as the 'hotel' is an MBA bothy (also known as Feith Uaine Bothy). There will be an option to spend the night in the bothy or on the surrounding hills, with the walkout to the minibus on Sunday morning. To book, contact Ivan Hiscox by email at meetorganiser14@cairngormclub.org.uk.

August 9, Ben Macdui Indicator Meet (Saturday)

This coach meet will start from St. Margaret's at 7am, proceeding NW out of Aberdeen (pick-ups possible) for the A96 etc. From the Glenmore ski car park, the main party, including those carrying and installing the new indicator, will follow the well-made Coire an Lochain path to the summit. Installation will take at least an hour, but those not involved will be free to explore the Macdui - Cairngorm plateau, e.g. the fine views over Loch Avon, before returning to the coach (or staying high to camp out, and making their own way home). To book (if not recruited!), contact Ken Thomson by email at librarian@cairngormclub.org.uk.

September 7, Lairig Ghru (south to north) (Sunday)

This coach meet will start from St. Margaret's at 7am, proceeding to the Linn o'Dee car park. The President's Party will be walking the Lairig Ghru from south to north, with lunch at the Pools of Dee, then exiting via the Chalamain Gap on the Rothiemurchus side. To book, contact Craig Thomson by email at day@cairngormclub.org.uk.

More details of Club activities at -
www.cairngormclub.org.uk/clubactivities/clubactivities.htm

June 2025

3	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Yellow Crag (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
10	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Long Slough (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
13	Fri	Stravaig	Kemnay - Leschangie (Jay Turner)
13	Fri	Weekend	Belfast Climbing Club Hut, the Mournes (Martina Rooney; meetorganiser26cairngormclub.org.uk)
17	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Boltsheugh (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Sun	Day	Ben a'Ghlo (7am; 43; 906672; 8hrs; £18; minibus; Will Ellwood; ctte7@cairngormclub.org.uk)
24	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Clashrodneigh (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
26	Thur	MWW	Clachnaben (Brian Purves; ctte8@cairngormclub.org.uk)

July

1	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Pass of Ballater West (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
8	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Souter Head (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
11	Fri	Weekend	Jura Camping (Tom Litterick; social@cairngormclub.org.uk)
15	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Long Slough (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
18	Fri	Stravaig	7 Bridges of Ballater and possibly Knock Castle (Gill Shirreffs)
19	Sat	Day	Tarf Hotel, with overnigher (7am; 43; 874662; 24hrs; £20; minibus; Ivan Hiscox; meetorganiser14@cairngormclub.org.uk)
22	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Peel Slough (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
29	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Alligator Ridge (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
31	Thur	MWW	Gelder Shiel (Joyce Ritchie; mww@cairngormclub.org.uk)

August

5	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Alan's Cliff (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)
9	Sat	Day	Ben Macdui Indicator Re-visited with overnight option of Cairngorms 4000ers (7am; 36; 990060; 7 hrs; £25; coach; Ken Thomson; librarian@cairngormclub.org.uk)
12	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Pass of Ballater East (Stuart Dick; climb@cairngormclub.org.uk)

August (continued)

15	Fri	Stravaig	North East side of Huntly (Jay Turner)
15	Fri	Weekend	Knoydart Bunkhouse (Caroline Watt; meetorganiser31@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
19	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Fulmar Wall (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
26	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Cairnrobin Point (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
28	Thur	MWW	Ben Tirran (Helen Russell; ccpresident@cairnngormclub.org.uk)

September

2	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Deceptive Wall (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
7	Sun	Day	Lairig Ghru, south to north (7am; 36, 43; 063898 - 989063; 8hrs; £25; coach; Craig Thomson; day@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
9	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Greymare Slabs (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
12	Fri	Stravaig	Aden Country Park (Eilidh Scobbie: huts@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
12	Fri	Weekend	Galloway Activity Centre (Mark Norris; journal@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
16	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Deceptive Wall (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
18	Thur	Day	Multi-day trip to Sunart/Ardgour Area (Guy Bromby; meetorganiser14@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
23	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Yellow Crag (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
25	Thur	MWW	Bennachie (Marj Ewan; meetorganiser13@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
30	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Location TBC (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)

October

7	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Burn o'Vat (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
10	Fri	Weekend	Mol Mor, Torridon (Sue Miller; meetorganiser24@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
14	Tue	Climbing	Outdoor Climbing - Location TBC (Stuart Dick; climb@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
17	Fri	Stravaig	Insch/Dunnydeer (Henry Webb; ctte6@cairnngormclub.org.uk)
18	Sat	Day	Ben Chonzie (7am; 52; 743273; 6hrs; £18; minibus; Guy Bromby; meetorganiser18@cairnngormclub.org.uk)

Please note: bookings not confirmed until payment is made.

June 13, Northern Ireland (3 nights)

The group will be staying at the Belfast Climbing Club hut in the heart of the Mourne. Several fine walks and peaks close by for hiking and trad climbing. An ambition may be to attempt the Mourne Seven Sevens. There are also lots of trad climbing locations, sea swimming and cycling options nearby. To book, please contact Martina Rooney on email at meetorganiser26@cairngormclub.org.uk.

July 11, Jura Camping (2 nights)

This is a camping meet at the Jura Hotel campsite (£10pppn). Main targets are the iconic Paps of Jura (1 Corbett and 2 Grahams). Taking a bike may save on boot leather on the approach/return to the campsite. One big additional incentive is that the Jura whisky distillery is yards from the campsite! Car sharing is encouraged due to the long drive etc. To book, contact Tom Litterick by email at social@cairngormclub.org.uk.

August 15, Knoydart Bunkhouse (2 nights)

Famous for its remoteness and access to some of Scotland's classic walks this is a great opportunity to visit Inverie and the Knoydart peninsula. There are three Munros and six Corbetts locally although some of the Corbetts are a very long day, if tackled from Inverie. To book, contact Caroline Watt by email at meetorganiser31@cairngormclub.org.uk.

September 12, Galloway Activity Centre (2 nights)

This is a relatively infrequently visited and unexplored area of Scotland and this Club weekend offers the opportunity to remedy this, with great locations for walks, hikes, rock climbing and other outdoor activities. To book, contact Mark Norris by email at journal@cairngormclub.org.uk.

(More details of this meet are given on page 13 of this Newsletter)

October 10, Mol Mor, Torridon (2 nights)

Part of a converted farm steading at the head of Loch Torridon, Mol Mor provides good-quality accommodation for up to ten people. This meet has proved very popular with all 10 places snapped up very early. A waiting list is now in operation so if you wish to be added to it, please contact Sue Miller by email at meetorganiser24@cairngormclub.org.uk.

Day Meets - where appropriate for some meets - departure time; map sheet(s); grid reference(s) of drop-off and pick-up points; walking time; cost; means of transport; organiser contact details)

Mid-Week Walks (organiser; contact details, if available)

Weekend Meets (organiser; contact details)

Climbing (Summer) (organiser; contact details)

Membership News

The following Associate Members have been admitted since the last Newsletter:

Sandra Edwards	(Balmedie)
Billy Burnside	(Aberdeen)
Damian Merciar	(Sutton, Surrey)
Iain Sneddon	(Airdrie)
Ryan Fox	(Forfar)
John Fenemore	(Coupar Angus)
Mark Edmonds	(Inverurie)
Jack Gray	(Aberdeen)

The Club is sorry to hear of the death of the following members:

Steven Pollok	(Fort William; Ordinary member since 2020)
Fred Belcher	(Portlethen/Edzell; Ordinary member since 1999)
Peggy Connell	(Perth, formerly Aberdeen; Ordinary member 1987-2024)
Robin Kay	(Cults, Ordinary member since 1970)

The Club has also attracted 4 new Interim Members since the last Newsletter.

Muir Cottage

At the time of writing our Muir work weekend is planned and we are grateful to Eilidh Scobbie, our new hut custodian for organising the work and the 21 volunteers and who have offered to help over the weekend to keep Muir properly maintained.

We have recently organised an electrician to provide a check on Muir electrics (EICR - electrical installation condition report), and are in the process of instructing an electrician to rectify any shortcomings.

We are also investigating an improvement on the heating system and controls and will shortly be testing a remote monitoring system which is aimed at being simple and more user friendly. Many thanks to Kevin Adam for his input and making this happen.

We are looking to refurbish the Muir bathrooms and it is hoped that this may be implemented in August. We are currently waiting on quotes for this work and will make a decision on the timing of the refurbishment in June.

Incorporation

The committee has been advised to consider converting the club to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('SCIO') to make us a legal entity (ie able to enter into contracts and to own property) and to reduce the liability of office bearers who currently have to act in personal capacities on behalf of the club. We continue to investigate the implications of and steps required to follow this advice and will provide a report in due course and a full update at the AGM on 19 November.

Heavy Whalley

David "Heavy" Whalley, a renowned figure in British mountain rescue, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2025, at the age of 72. He was a leader, mentor, and a true legend of the Mountain Rescue community, dedicating his life to helping others in the mountains. Whalley's impact extended beyond his own work, shaping the structure, standards, and spirit of modern mountain rescue operations.

A good summary of his life and work in mountain rescue can be found at - <https://outdoorprofessional.co.uk/in-tribute-david-heavy-whalley-mbe-bem/>

New Book

A Paddlers Guide to the River Dee has recently been published, called "The Scottish River Dee". It is priced at £18. It was written by the late Jonathan Kitching (JK) who was passionate about "his river". It is for paddlers but has interesting tales about the riverbanks too.

To purchase this book please contact Dale Kitching on jkbook100@gmail.com for details.

Proceeds go to the Anchor Unit who supported JK through his Multiple Myeloma journey (and continue to support Robbie Middleton our most recent past Honorary President).

Mountain (and Winter) Leader Qualifications

Congratulations are due to Guy Bromby on his achievement of gaining his Winter Mountain Leader (WML) qualification. Guy said of his achievement that it was a team effort and that he had received masses of support over the years and thanks everyone involved, you'll know who you are!

Also Club member Grant Signorini has in the last year achieved his Mountain Leader (ML) qualification. Congratulations Grant.

The Club continues to support members, both with encouragement and financially, who are working towards these qualifications, and is pleased to announce that Vay Mutch and David Dunlop have both recently begun their supported training for ML.

Steven Pollok

As announced on page 11 of this newsletter, Club member Steven Pollok died recently after a climbing accident. An obituary available on the P&J website, which details his life and climbing achievements, can be viewed here - https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/obituaries/6749648/steven-pollok-fort-william-climber-obituary/?utm_content=386444505&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-153054651388736&sfsn=scwspwa (copy and paste the complete URL into a browser to view)

Club Weekend in Galloway, South West Scotland 12th September 2025

This is a relatively infrequently visited and unexplored area of Scotland - and the Club weekend on 12th September offers the opportunity to remedy this, with great locations for walks, hikes, rock climbing and other outdoor activities.

Did you know that in John Buchan's famous book, "The Thirty Nine Steps" (John Buchan, 1915) Richard Hannay chose to go to the wild places of Galloway to escape his pursuers? *"Over a long ridge of moorland I took my road, skirting the side of a high hill which the herd had called Cairnsmore of Fleet"*.

Did you also know that Gaelic was spoken here until the late 1700's? The name itself means 'land of the foreign Gaels' (see the book - Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland). Many secrets of the area's past lie in the Gaelic/ Scots names of its hills.

It's a fair journey down south from Aberdeenshire (about the same time to get to Skye or Glencoe - i.e. 4 ½ hrs) but worth it - I recommend going via the Dalveen Pass or the Mennoch Pass through the Lowther Hills. We are staying in the Galloway Activity Centre bunkhouse on Loch Ken, north of Castle Douglas (see <https://lochken.co.uk>).

There will be lots to do over the weekend including:

- Exploring the Galloway Hills. There is a Harvey's map available for the area – Galloway Hills. If you intend going, you will need it (unlike elsewhere in Scotland there are few hill paths and trails). There are Corbetts (Corserine, the Merrick, Shalloch on Minnoch, Cairnsmore of Carsphairn), Grahams and Donalds.
- Rock climbing - see 'Galloway Climbers' on Facebook which provides a great running commentary on local climbing activity, or John Biggar's excellent website - <http://www.johnbiggar.com/galloway-climbing-index.asp>
- MTB'ing in the Seven Stanes (see <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/activities/mountain-biking/7stanes>) - Dalbeattie, Ae, Mabie, Glentroll and Kirroughtree are closest.
- Forest walks in the Galloway Forest Park.
- Finding a remote bothy - there are only a few....
- Other sports at the Centre itself.

I will probably travel down early/back late in my campervan if others wish to join for a bit of early climbing/hiking.

There are only a few places remaining (we have 12 spaces in total in the bunkhouse) - so get in touch if you need more info or want to book.

Mark Norris (journal@cairnsgormclub.org.uk)

National Trust for Scotland - Cards and Stickers

The Club has renewed its membership of the NTS and there are cards and stickers available to borrow which allow access to all NTS sites and car parks. It also allows the same access to National Trust England properties etc. Please contact Brian Purves by email at vp@cairngormclub.org.uk for more details of where they can be used, or to borrow them.

Munro Completion

Club member Colin Armstrong recently completed the Munros: in his own words - "I'm pleased to confirm that I completed the Munros on Friday 2nd May at Ladhar Bheinn approximately 54 years after my first one, aged 11, Lochnagar. I was accompanied by two hillwalking friends and our eldest son." Well done Colin.

Fred Belcher

Fred Belcher passed peacefully on April 12 at the Glens Care Home, Edzell, aged 92 years. He joined the Club in January 1999 and was a committee member 2001-2002 and Climbing Secretary 2001-2003. Fred was well known as a gentleman and for his many tales from his past in the RAF.

He took up mountaineering later in life and it was on a solo ascent of the Black Spout where, as he neared the top and contemplated the steepening cornice at the corrie rim, a helpful voice called out 'could you use a rope' which Fred accepted, and so was introduced to the Club. He went on to have many adventures with the Club and the friends he met in it.

Fred has now taken his place as one of the Cairngorm Club legends.

Garry Wardrope

Indicators

Members may have expected to see by now a couple of brand-new replacement indicators on their monthly(?) ascents of Lochnagar and Ben Macdui. But life ain't so simple, and we have been held up by difficulties, including weather (even in the non-winter of 2024/25), recalculation of bearings (Ben Wyvis appears to have moved since 1924), engineering anxieties (ceramic distortion, welding queries, adhesion uncertainties, etc.), and most recently the Forfar etcher breaking his kneecap! However, Mr Neil Rae of Raemoir has kindly agreed to fund the Lochnagar replacement in memory of his father-in-law (who was a Club member), and we are seeking external funding for Macdui. It is still hoped to acquire the stainless-steel replacements in June, and to install them on Lochnagar in July and on Macdui in August.

Carry Frame Wanted!

Can anyone lend the Club a rectangular carrying frame (Yukon design or similar) for transporting the new indicators to the tops of Lochnagar and Ben Macdui this summer?.Should be able to cope with a weight of 20kg or so, and a disc of diameter 650mm plus 3mm rim.

Weekend Meets 2026

The weekend meets calendar is now complete for the year 2026.

Why not start to plan your trips now next year, or put some dates in your diary to visit some of the varied list as laid out below?

January 23	Muir Cottage, Burns Supper Weekend
February 13	Blackrock Cottage, Glencoe
March 20	Inverardran Cottage, Criarnlarich
April 24	Naismith Hut, Elphin
May 22	Saddle Hostel, Invergarry
June 12	Lagangarbh Cottage, Glencoe
<i>July 10</i>	<i>Arran, Camping</i>
August 14	Forest Way Bunkhouse, Lael, Nr Ullapool
<i>September 19</i>	<i>Raw Head, Langdale</i>
October 9	Morvich, Kintail
<i>November 13</i>	<i>Riasg, Roybridge</i>
December 4	Corran Bunkhouse

(Meets in italics and bold are only provisionally booked at present)

Beinn a'Bhuird Day Meet, 26 May 2025

As forecast, the weather for this meet involved showers (but few) and winds (quite strong, higher up). From Alltdourie (thanks to the estate), we visited the (not so) Secret Bothy up Glen Slugain. Then four went north to go up to A' Choich before heading over Beinn a'Bhuird's South Tops and then down past the 1940 Wellington crash site. The others headed up Carn na Drochaide, taking in the fine shelter on Carn na Criche, and hence down to the Linn of Quoich, where NTS had kindly left open the refurbished Princesses' Tearoom.

Many thanks to Craig, Mike and Izy for organising everything so well!

PS: NTS has "realigned" the path on the east bank of the Quoich below the footbridge at 089925, with stone steps at several places (though not where it leaves the footbridge, in an odd direction). Upstream of the footbridge on the west side, the old track/footpath is still easily negotiable if the water is not too high, saving an unwelcome climb over the new bulldozed track at about 082926.

New Crag - Creag Ghuibhais

A new climbing crag has been developed on Deeside. More details can be found at - [https://www.cairngormclub.org.uk/miscellaneous/Crag Z.pdf](https://www.cairngormclub.org.uk/miscellaneous/Crag%20Z.pdf)

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Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Cairngorm Club.