

Perth & District Hillwalking Club
Monthly Bulletin August 2016

September Monthly Walks Reminder – Combined Coach on Sunday 4th Sep.

We are going to Braemar and Ballater. The Challenging walks will take in a range of Munros and Tops in the Lochnagar range, with all routes starting at Auchallater, and finishing at Invercauld Bridge. The Moderate walks will go to Ballater, and do some new walks, which are variations on the Sgor Buidhe Circuit.

Bookings to Elsie Wilke by **Thursday 25th August** please.

Remember we park at Broxden P&R car park from September !

September Weekend Meet at Ullapool SYHA Hostel (16th, 17th, 18th)

Anyone wanting to attend needs to book directly with the hostel or SYHA.

(www.syha.org.uk Tel: 08452937373 or with the hostel. Tel: 01854 612254.

(ullapool@syha.org.uk) Please let the SYHA or the hostel know you are with the Perth Hillwalking Club group, and also let Margaret Band know.

Navigation Training with the Ancrum Centre – Dundee (Update)

Just to confirm we now have a group of 8 members who will be doing a course on 22nd October, and likely at “Refresher”/“Improver” level. We may well repeat this initiative next year, based on the feedback from this year’s course.

Coach Pickup and Parking at Broxden Park and Ride Car Park

We have been keeping you all informed of this change, and as mentioned above, we change to Broxden on **Sunday 4th September.** The coach will pick us up at the eastern end of the car park. (Opposite end from the entrance)

If any of you will have a problem in getting to Broxden, please let us know.

Combined Coach Report: Sunday 3rd July 2016 – Glencoe & Kinlochleven

We had a booking total of 33 for this outing, and yet another poor month for coach bookings. With one member cancelling, we had 32 on the coach, 3 of whom joined at Crieff.

The weather forecast was mainly for showers and sunny intervals in Glencoe, although some forecasts predicted rain all day. We left Perth on a clear morning with some blue skies, but the weather soon deteriorated to thick cloud and heavy showers as we approached Glencoe. All groups had some rain, and sometimes heavy, but there were also dry periods with a few sunny intervals. After a cancellation we only had 2 in the Moderate group, including 1 guest, so they transferred to the Moderate/Easy group which then numbered 11 walkers. The Challenging Plus group consisted of 8, Challenging 6 and Less Challenging 7.

Departing Perth at 07.00, we stopped for the toilets at Tyndrum Green Welly Stop, then onwards to drop off the Moderate/Easy group at Kingshouse Hotel/Glen Etive Road End at 09.05. By 09.15 the Challenging Plus group descended at Lairig Eilde layby, then the Challenging & Less Challenging groups at 09.20 at Signal Rock Parking Area.

The Moderate/Easy group reached Kinlochleven by 14.30, and went to the Ice Factor for refreshments (where the coach was parked). The Challenging Plus group reached the Clachaig Inn by 16.05 and the Challenging & Less Challenging groups walked together near the end of their walks, to reach the Clachaig Inn by 16.15.

Despite the poor weather, all groups completed their walk in very good time and everyone appeared to enjoy their walk. Our return to Perth at 19.35 was much earlier than recent years, when we have been close to or just after our deadline of 20.30. However, another poor turnout does not balance with a coach costing £500!

George Smart 1st August 2016

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Bookings for Monthly Walks

As we are now at the half year position as far as monthly outings are concerned, I feel a brief review is worthwhile. For the first 6 months, we have a total of 189 bookings, and an average of 31. Our budget is set at an average of 42, so we are 63 bookings below this, representing a loss of income of £882. We had an unplanned combined coach outing in April, as a result of only 18 bookings for the `A` coach and 11 for the `B`. You will see from the new walk tables we have introduced another combined outing in September, which will give 7 for the year so far. The 2 additional combined outings should keep our finances on target so far, but if the low level of bookings continues, further combined outings may be required.

The message for us all is still the same, and simply, “use the coaches or lose them”!

George 1st August 2016

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Monthly Bulletin Editor

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