

Perth & District Hillwalking Club Monthly Bulletin September 2018

October 2018 Monthly Walks Reminder on Sunday 7th October

This is a **combined coach** outing to the Mamores and Nevis Range, leaving Perth at **07.00**. Two Challenging and two Moderate walks are planned.

Coach fare: £15. **Bookings to Elsie Wilke by Thursday 27th September please.**

Vacancies on Committee

We currently have 3 vacancies on the committee, and this number will increase next year due to people standing down. The committee would welcome new committee members to help with the substantial amount of work required to keep the Club operating.

So if you would like to participate in running the Club, please speak to any committee member (names are listed on your Club Info Sheet).

Even if you don't want to join the committee, you can help to advertise the Club by displaying a poster on your noticeboard at work, college or local community. If so, please contact Susan (susan_duguid@yahoo.co.uk) or any committee member for more information. Many thanks to those members who have already helped out in this way.

September Weekend Meet

14th, 15th, 16th Ullapool. Please book directly with **Ullapool SYHA** and let Margaret Band know, so that she can arrange with the hostel to group us together.

2019 Weekend Meets

February 2019: Glen Nevis (location and dates to be confirmed).

Annual Slides and Buffet Evening at Craigie Hill Golf Club 16th November

As usual, we're looking for presenters to show up to around **50 photos**, with the theme; "**Hills and Mountains Anywhere**". Please let George know if you would like to show some photos.

Members's Skills – Navigation, Winter Skills (The use of GPS Units) George Smart. It's the time of year again, as we move into "the season of mists", and then it's winter! Sunday in Glen Etive involved "Challenging Plus" navigation for all groups. Our group "leaders" do a great job for the club, but we all sign a disclaimer confirming "self-reliance on the hill". Ideally, navigation should be a team effort. We all see the news headlines, when hillwalkers need rescue, often in winter conditions, but not exclusively. It's certainly amazing to see how many rescues involve walkers who get lost, either without a map, or not knowing their location on a map.

Whether you use a GPS regularly, or prefer traditional navigation with a map and compass, is up to the individual. Many phones have a GPS unit of course, or can be easily adapted via an app, including mapping software. However, battery life can be very limited when a phone is in this mode, and very few phones have removable batteries. A basic GPS unit will at least provide a map location, normally 16 to 20 hours battery life, and have a removable battery. We note that many members carry a GPS unit on monthly walks, and whilst we try to ensure groups remain together, it's always possible to get separated. The Garmin **etrex 10** is one of the main introductory units

available, and whilst the list price is around £100, it can be bought for around £75 - £80. (Xmas is coming!).

Courses

We note the Ancrum Centre is running a Navigation Course on 6th October, and looking further ahead, they have a range of Winter Skills courses in January so far. Many members have found their courses to be worthwhile and good value for money. (See website for details).

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`A` Coach Report – Sunday 2nd September 2018 – Glen Etive

We had a booking total of 23 for this outing, and 1 member failed to turn up on Sunday, leaving 22 on the coach, including 4 guests. We left Broxden on a very mild and clear morning, but the weather clouded over with some drizzle, by the time we reached Lochearnhead. After the usual group changes, we had 10 in the Challenging group, 5 in Less Challenging 1, and 7 in Less Challenging 2.

After the usual Green Welly toilet stop, the journey down Glen Etive turned out to be very difficult for our coach. Whilst not much longer than other coaches we have used for Glen Etive, the 35 seat unit sits very low on the road, making for slow progress to avoid the front bouncing and hitting the road. Also, there were several instances of inconsiderate parking of camper vans and cars. As a result we were around 20 minutes later than usual when we parked the coach, so that it was almost 10.00 when walks started.

The weather featured low cloud and mist, some drizzle, and strong winds on the tops. Progress was slow for all 3 groups, and we also had 2 members return early to the coach, not being fit enough for their walk. Another member decided to return to the coach after the first Munro on the Challenging walk. The Challenging group and one of the Less Challenging groups returned to the coach around 16.45.

The other Less Challenging group had navigation problems on the summit ridge of their hill in very difficult conditions. As a result they started the descent in the wrong direction and had to make a long detour to get back on route. They were around 1 hour later than expected, so we didn't leave the area until 18.20, with a late return to Broxden at 20.50. This just left enough time for our driver to return to the depot for the deadline of 21.15. There were no complaints from members and guests, despite the very poor conditions. However, a pub stop would have been very welcome, if there had been more time!

George Smart 3rd September 2018

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‘B’ Coach report – 2nd September 2018 – Hill of Edendocher/Clachnaben

We originally had 15 bookings for the ‘B’ coach; 13 members and 1 guest. Two members cancelled, and one did not turn up on Sunday morning. This left 12 on the coach, setting out from Broxden at 0703. We travelled via Coupar Angus, Forfar and Edzell, arriving 0845 at the start of both walks.

The coach dropped all walkers at Spittal Cottage where there is a track allowing the driver to pull in from the B974 road. The groups were Moderate: 8 members, 1 guest, Moderate/Easy: 3 members.

All started walking together at 0855, and the groups separated at around 0945 to continue their routes. Conditions were misty and windy for most of the morning but cleared after lunchtime. Owing to the mist and more tracks on the ground than on the map, the Mod/Easy group took a wrong turning and had to retrace their steps to reach the track to Clachnaben. By this time the weather had cleared considerably, and the views from the summit were good.

From this point all 12 walkers stayed together for the descent to Clachnaben car park where the coach was based for the day, arriving 1530. Refreshments were taken at The Ramsay Arms in Fettercairn, a well-appointed hotel with good service at the bar. We departed at 1700 and arrived back at Broxden at 1815.

Susan Duguid 3rd September 2018

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susan_duguid@yahoo.co.uk
Monthly Bulletin Editor