



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 38 December 2011

www.fdhwc.org.uk

President's Column

For the past 2 years, while writing this column, we were in the grip of severe winter weather with snow and ice, which lasted for weeks. This year, winter is just toying with us so far. Some snow, some very cold winds and now turned mild again, although I had crampons on for this first time last weekend.

The weather did play its part again with our programme, some meets cancelled, some meets not well attended. Ray comments on this later.

Our advertising campaign seems to have picked up some new members. Welcome to the club everyone. The latest bus ran with 19 on board – just like old times.

What has happened on the general mountaineering front?

- the privatisation of the rescue service (at least helicopters) is still being debated in the UK parliament
- wind farm development, and new power lines to go with them, have dominated the environmental discussion. The latest being just outside the Cairngorm National Park at Kincaig.

Best wishes to all. Hope to see you at one of the festive meets. If not, then at our big social event of the year – the high tea.

Colin,
President

Festive Meets

The traditional festive period walks will be held on Tuesday 27 December and Tuesday 3 January. This year they have a Shakespearian theme -

*"Fear not, till Birnam wood
Do come to Dunsinane"*

We will be expecting a full turnout of the three witches for these walks. On 27 December we have decided to go to the western end of the Sidlaws, taking in Dunsinane and King's Seat. The following week, on 3 January we plan to head to Birnam Hill and the Obney Hills near Dunkeld. Departure time on both days will be 9am from the Myre. Keep watching the website for further details, or contact Ray or Carolyn.

High Tea Meet Sunday 15th January

This meet will be a crossing of the Eastern Mounth from Glen Dye to Glen Esk, taking in Clachnaben (589m) and Mount Battock (778m). The meet is by bus leaving from Sauchieburn Hotel. Luthermuir at 08:00. High tea will be taken at the Sauchieburn Hotel at 17:00. Please contact the meet secretary if you require a bus seat and/or are coming for high tea. If coming for high tea, please state your choice of main course by Wednesday 11th January.

Menu, £14.00 per person

- *Pan Fried Chicken with a Tomato & Basil Sauce*
- *Deep Fried Breaded Haddock*
- *Beef and Venison Pie*
- *Grilled Salmon Steak with Cheese and Prawns*
- *Lamb and Red Pepper Curry with Basmati Rice*
- *Minced Beef Cobbler (with herb scone topping)*
- *Vegetable and Three Cheese Quiche with Salad*

Served with fresh vegetables of the day, potatoes or chips.

Followed by Homemade Cakes, Tea or Coffee Scones, Jam and Clotted Cream

'Far I wi Noo' plaque

Remember to note any worthy events for "incident of the year". Previous winners are "Sinclair's Leap" (2008); Ray's "I may be gone some time" (2009); Alec's "Dangle on the Inn Pinn" (2010). Please forward news of any worthy incident to a committee member. It is hoped to present this at the AGM on Monday 5th March.

Diamond Wedding

Congratulations to our two honorary members, Rita and John Norrie, who have recently celebrated their diamond wedding.

Weekend Meets Spring/Summer 2012

March Corran Ferry
May Arran
June Kintail

The booking form will be available soon on the web site.

Photographic Competition

The club's annual photographic competition will be held after the open meeting on Monday February 6th 2012. For the 4th year running, the judge is Graham Wilkinson, president of Carnoustie Camera Club. Entries are to be handed to a committee member no later than Sunday 29th January. Although entries should be made on paper (i.e. a print), Graham would also like to receive a digital image or negative, in order to help with his summary and to suggest any improvements to the photographs. Any size of print is adequate.

Extract from constitution

LIST OF RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

- 1. The photos entered must have some connection with hill walking (the club preferred) and be taken not earlier than 1 year prior to the competition.*
- 2. There will be one class of entries. An entry can be one of the following: - a slide, a print from a film negative or a print from a digital image. Any size of print can be submitted.*
- 3. All entries to be handed to a committee member by the published closing date.*
- 4. A member can submit no more than 5 entries.*
- 5. The competition to be judged by an independent judge, appointed by the committee.*

"A week in the life of"

by John Norrie

- Monday 20 June 14:20, walked across the road and caught the bus to Dundee (a minor panic over a misplaced bus pass)
- Got the 15:30 bus to Aberdeen
- Walked across the road and took the 17:00 boat to Lerwick
- Got picked up at Lerwick ferry terminal at 08:00. Had a very sociable Tuesday
- Got a lift to Scalloway to board the "Swan" at 08:00 Wednesday, which is sailing to Waterford to take part in the Tall Ships race.
- Got off the Swan at 08:00 Sunday at Bangor, Northern Ireland to get a bus to Larne.
- Ha! But there are no buses on a Sunday. Bought a share in a taxi service to get to Larne in order to catch the 10:00 ferry to Troon.
- Got to Larne – no 10:00 boat on Sunday. Can't leave unattended luggage – a long sit.
- Got the 17:30 ferry to Troon. Will we make Glasgow bus station tonight?
- Stuff it, we'll go B&B in Troon. Other half has just washed her hair, fire alarm goes off. Oh dear!
- Got the 10:00 train to Glasgow
- Got a taxi from Queen St. to Buchanan Bus depot.
- Got the 11:40 bus to Dundee and the 13:25 bus to Arbroath.
- Arrived at Elliot on Monday 27th June at 14:20.

Work! Don't have time to work.

Boules Championship

The 2nd annual running of this event took place at the Glen Clova social meet in October. Bob Railton and Rita Norrie successfully defended their title.

For Sale

Snow chains to suit 185R14C tyres £25

Dynastar 190 skis (no bindings), good condition, possibly suitable for ski mountaineering £15

Unused double ski bag £10

Phone John Norrie on 01241 876270.

Halloween Party

After an absence of many years, the club held a successful Halloween Party at the social meet in October – including syrup doughnuts, dookin' for apples and fireworks.

Open Meetings Reports

August 2011 – Willie Mather led us to Nathro to see where the Auld Dubrach (Peter Grant) hid away for years while government troops searched for the Jacobites. A blether in the Drovers at Memus followed.

September 2011 Planned games night didn't go ahead.

October 2011 – Eric Drummond, Chairman of Tayside Mountain Rescue Association gave us a talk on Mountain rescue, then and now.

November 2011 – Colin was quiz master as 5 teams fought for the annual chocolate orange prize. The team consisting of Carolyn, Janet and Linda (2 witches and a pal) won the event. Grown men wept.

December 2011 – John Rogers from Scone gave a very enthusiast presentation of his walking trips to Norway.

Forthcoming Open meetings

- January 9th – Lisa King, ranger, Crombie Country Park "Wildlife in the hills"
- February 6th – Graham Wilkinson. Annual photographic competition.
- March 5th – AGM followed by "Plotting the shipping forecast", Colin Sinclair



34 Catheters and 10 Islands Tour

by Brian Coull

In May this year Tom, Kip and I set off from Oban to go to St Kilda and back by bike, with a some ferry assistance.

The first day we had a very pleasant run across Mull to Iona. Kip was full of energy on arrival at the Hostel on Iona so Tom took him up the highest hill on the island, Ben I, Scotland's shortest hill name. The three old men were put in a four bed room with a very pleasant young woman. She never appeared that night but came down to breakfast from the top of Dun I.

Next day we went up the west coast of Mull to Tobermory, a day of heavy showers but a wonderful ride. We stopped at the only café on the route at Calgary Bay.

A crowd of drunks were hassling the young warden at the hostel but Tom and Brian stood by to sort them out if they became violent.

Then on to the ferry across to Ardnamurchan, which was damp and misty, over a big hill at the back of Ben Hiant and a great run down to a closed café at Glenmore, however the owner opened up early for us. Tom and Brian had soup etc while Kip spent his time increasing his knowledge of the history of the area, 2 hours later Kip's body ran out of fuel.

We stayed at Mallaig that night, had a good meal served by a girl from the Harris, who was impressed by our trip.

Another ferry to Skye then in deteriorating weather we rode north to Portree. We arrived there in a sorry drookit state, puddles all over the floor, we were served by another girl who told that we were "quite mad but in a nice way".

A night in Uig then the ferry across to Tarbert where my friend Dave, who I first met in Patagonia was waiting for us at the pier. He bought us coffees and carried our supplies of food and wine to the next hostel.

The plan was to stay 3 nights on Harris and go out to St Kilda on one of the days but the first day was very wet with a gale force westerly so we rode west to Hushinish where Dave and his wife met us with hot drinks from their campervan. We had an easy run back in the gale but I ended up in a ditch when the gears slipped on a hill.

The sun came out next day but the wind was far too strong to go to St Kilda so we went round South Harris, I went half way but Tom and Kip did the full Monty.

We took another ferry to Berneray where the hostel is an old Black House right by the sea. There we met a member of the Yorkshire Ladies Cycling Association, a formidable lady. She was also a member of the Mile Stone Association, cycling the Western Isles taking a photograph of every milestone and recording its position on her GPS, a useful service I suppose.

Over the causeway to North Uist in the morning, I stopped in a passing place to let a car past, when a strong gust of wind knocked me down on to the road and broke my mirror, that's three broken so far and second time on the deck this trip.

We stopped at a teashop an hour later where the leg fell off my chair, back on the deck again. The good news is I gained a free meal, pity I had not eaten more food.

The afternoon was not good, riding into the wind with heavy rain we averaged 6 mph that day. Kip was way out in front, Tom in the middle and I was well behind nursing bruised ego from the 2 tumbles.

We crossed Grimsay our seventh island on route to Benbecula where we picked up food in the local shop. Kip appointed a personal shopper from the staff to get the ingredients for his stir-fry, he even invited her to join us for the meal but she declined his kind offer.

We spent the night at Bowmore on South Harris, with a welcoming fire and good stir-fry.

The next day the wind strength was increasing but we managed to get across to Barra to find the owner of the teashop at the pier battening down the hatches as the forecast was not good.

We spent a very noisy night at Castle Bay listening to the howling gale and all MacBrayne services were cancelled next day.

One of us had carefully calculated his catheter needs for the trip and they were neatly attached to his pannier rack in a waterproof bag, however this delay had caused a problem. Tom sent him off to the local hospital and he soon returned with a new supply but he was not happy about the colour.

Two of us went for a walk in the afternoon on a beach facing the angry Atlantic Ocean, whilst Kip went on a free bus trip round the island.

We celebrated the last day of our trip with white wine and cakes instead of afternoon tea, we made too much noise for one of the guests who had come across from Oban the previous day and been rather ill on the boat. It was her first cycling tour, the forecast was vile and she was very nervous, we helped her out by telling her all the things that would probably go wrong.

Tom was very impressed by a woman who was sharing our dorm, she had taken part in some prestigious cycling events he even took her tea in bed next morning. I expect he does that for Mary everyday.

The ferry came out of hiding next morning. On the way across the Minch we were treated to emergency drills and when they got as far as announcing abandon ship the exercise ended.

On the way home the road was littered with trees but on the plus side, the strong wind meant that Brian Batson enjoyed an easier day as he finished his end to end trip.

The weather for a lot of the time was poor but we all enjoyed it and it was character building.

The Obelisk – Little Glen Shee

Those who were on the New Year meet (3rd January 2011) will know what the title refers to. We recruited the help of a friend, Marjorie Donald, at Perth Library, to research its history.

Extract from "the guide to Auchtergaven"

Guide to Auchtergaven.

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is the Ordy, on account of the fertility of its banks and slopes, but most of all on account of the fame given to it by the poet Nicoll (1814-1837) whose memories—

"Are twined wi' the stanes o' the silver burn
An' its fairy crooks and bays,
That onward sang 'neath the gowden broom
Upon bonnie Ordie braes."—

and whose monument stands on a knowe at Little Tullybelton farm, and still looks down on the banks and stream that he loved so well and sang of so sweetly. His songs and lyrics are pleasant reading, and always welcome among the "folk o' Ochtergaen," of which place he was a native. Lakes within the district are Tullybelton, ...

Extract from the 3rd Statistical Account

3rd Statistical Account.

PARISH OF AUCHTERGAVEN

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The parish possesses another memorial, in the form of a stone obelisk, to its best-known son, the poet Robert Nicoll. It stands 50 feet high and was erected in 1857 near his birthplace at Little Tullybelton. Reference is made to him in the *New Statistical Account* which was written a year after his death in 1837. He was

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COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS

only 23 years of age when he died. Among the many minor bards of Scotland he undoubtedly ranks high and had he lived longer he might have attained great distinction. The centenary of his birth was observed by celebrations in the parish in January 1914, the record of which is to be found in a souvenir booklet compiled by 'a Lass o' Ochtergaen,' Mrs William C. Batey. In the introduction to her account of these celebrations the editor notes that 'at his death he had published only a slim volume of verse by subscription,' but thanks to Kingsley's critique of his work and to Gilfillan's lectures on his poetry Robert Nicoll's name and fame were not suffered to die! Editions of his collected poetry followed each other in rapid succession in 1842, 1852, 1855, and 1877; and a sixth edition was published in the year of the centenary as part of the celebration. The Nicoll Monument is a prominent landmark. In 1902 it was cleaned and restored. On occasion services have been held at it, but for long now it has been ignored and neglected and it is doubtful if many of the young people of to-day know much about the man whom it commemorates. If Auchtergaven has honoured him he certainly brought honour to Auchtergaven, which he must dearly have loved and of whose people he wrote:

'Happy, happy be their dwellin's
By the burn and in the glen—
Cheerie lasses, cantie callans
Are they a' in Ochtergaen.'

February 1963.

The growth of Munro-ism by Colin Sinclair

The club maintains a list of Munroists on a mounted scroll. It has recently been updated with our latest Munroist, Alec Smith. The Scottish Mountaineering Club maintains the list of registered Munroists and Alec's name has been registered in this list. See the list online at <http://www.smc.org.uk>. We have 34 names on our scroll, 32 of which are registered with the SMC. The table below ties both lists together. I think the entries for Willie Milnes and Brian Coull are the only funny entries :- they actually completed earlier than they were registered – hence the blip in SMC numbering.

	Year	Number
Raymond Lubbock	1976	217
Willie Milne	1980	440
Brian Coull	1981	441
Winnie Reid	1983	269
Davie Reid	1983	270
Fraser Simpson	1983	442
Dave Adam	1987	495
Eric Knox	1990	725
John Norrie	1990	758
Mike Underwood	1990	844
Iain Shepherd	1991	863
Bill Redford	1991	972
Barbara Redford	1992	1028
Rita Norrie	1993	1155
Jim Convery	1993	1231
Martin Horn	1994	1353
Colin Sinclair	1995	1520
Nancy McCombie	1996	1637
Dorothy Adam	1997	1761
Frank Low	1999	2275
Bill MacDonald	1999	2276
Garry Adam	2001	-
Dale Smith	2002	2740
Jim Christie	2002	2741
Bill Mill	2002	2861
John Dawson	2003	3015
John McDonald	2003	-
Alistair Anderson	2003	3095
Willie Mather	2006	3640
Nan Hargraves	2006	3654
Bob Railton	2009	4333
Carolyn Smith	2009	4332
Linda Sinclair	2009	4456
Alec Smith	2011	4925

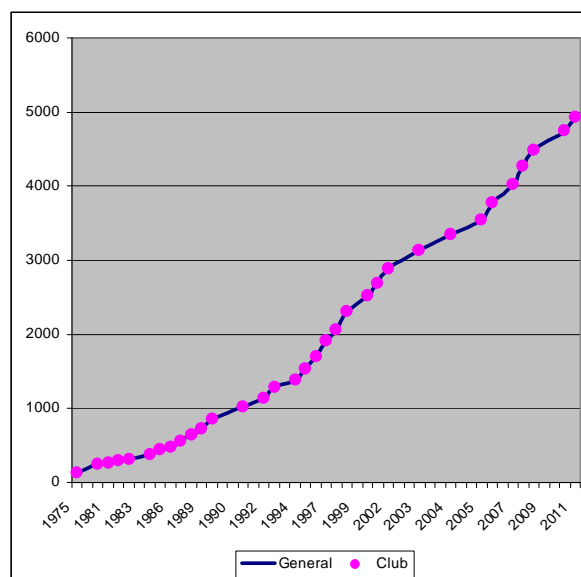
We also have 3 current members who do not appear on the club scroll, because they weren't members (or former members) at the time of their completion. All 3 are registered with the SMC.

	Year	Number
Graham Brown	2003	3088
Sheila Simpson	2005	3432
Bill Simpson	2005	3433

The current total registered with the SMC is 4935 (at 21st December 2011). Our club has 2/34 or 6% rate of non-registration so we can assume that if that is normal then another 300 or so have actually completed the Munros, but not registered.

The first Munroist was in 1901, now 110 years ago. I thought it would be interesting to look at the rate of Munro completion over time and plot out own club members into the graph to see how we spread out. Are we typical?

The following graph shows the club trend along with the general trend. The graph starts at 1975. Up to then there were only 100 Munroists in total. As you can see, the trend doesn't show any signs of slowing down.



Meet Secretary's Reports **(July-Dec 2011)**

Billy Connolly once said "there is no such thing as bad weather – only the wrong clothes". Well, as long as everyone remembered their waterproofs I am sure they will agree that we have had some fantastic walks over the last six months.

10 July 2011 **Mystery Meet**

Attendance - 10

The traditional Mystery Meet was organised by the Assistant Meet Secretary. The destination was Lochearnhead, from where the ten walkers set off up Glen Kendrum before climbing east to Meall an t' Seallaidh. From there a northerly descent took them to a bealach before another steep climb to the summit of Creag MacRainich. Descending west, the walkers picked up the well-preserved track of the old railway high up on the hillside above Glen Ogle which led them back to Lochearnhead. There was a rather uncommon feature to this walk. No, it wasn't the fine clear weather, but rather the conquest of two Corbetts on one day.

21 August 2011 **Ben Lui**

Attendance - 7

Ben Lui was originally on the Meet Calendar the previous year in February but was cancelled due to the poor weather. It had to be better in August – didn't it? The cloud was low as we set off from Dalrigh, following the track alongside the River Cononish. By the time the upper reaches of the north-east ridge of Ben Lui were reached, visibility was very poor. Interest was raised for one young walker in particular when we discovered the remains of an aircraft. From the top of Ben Lui the walkers split into two parties, the main group continuing east to take in the Munros of Benn Oss and Beinn Dhubhcraig. Two members descended northwards in poor visibility, being accompanied by a rather ill-equipped walker whom we had met at the top. The larger group had the better of the weather, enjoying views of some distant hills later in the day. The other two walkers had a difficult descent, having to bypass some bluffs before continuing to the Corbett of Beinn Chuirn. This part of the walk was done in poor visibility with numerous showers.

The two groups finished within a reasonable time of each other and returned home quite late after a lengthy day in the hills.

11 September 2011 **Glen Feshie – Coylumbridge**

Attendance - 4

This was a fairly ambitious walk with a bus scheduled to allow this through walk. However, it quickly became apparent that there was little demand for this walk, partly because of the weather forecast. In the event a small group of

four set off for Glen Clova with the intention of climbing Ben Tirran, but with the weather deteriorating they settled for a short walk to Loch Brandy before heading back to the hotel for a coffee. When they left the hotel it was still raining.....

18 September 2011

Balnamoon's Cave, Glen Esk

Attendance - 9

...It was still raining (see 11 September above). The advantage of this was that the swollen rivers and waterfalls in Glen Esk provided a spectacular backdrop for this walk. We were joined on this walk by a four-legged friend, a little terrier thingy (I'm a Meet Secretary, not a dog expert) which followed us all the way from the car park to Balnamoon's cave and back. When we reached the area where the cave was located, two well-prepared members took out GPS's, checked the grid reference for the cave which they had carefully noted down and started scouring the hillside for the cave. Meantime the other walkers were sitting in and around the cave getting fed up waiting for them. On the return journey the little streams and ditches crossing the path had become raging torrents with the result that our four-legged guest had to be carried. The day had a happy ending as John Easson managed to locate the rightful owner of the dog further down the glen.

Another item of lost property was found on this walk and returned to its rightful owner by Bob Railton. He found a dead racing pigeon and located the owner on the internet from the tag on the bird's leg. The owner asked Bob to go back up the glen to get the tag on its other leg. I think there was more than the pigeon's leg being pulled!

This walk was made all the more enjoyable by the weather. Glen Esk was a joy to behold with the swollen waters all around. Maybe Billy Connolly was right.

23-25 September 2011 **Lake District**

Attendance - 6

On the Saturday, they all walked from Ambleside to Grasmere over Loughrigg Fell (335m) in poor weather. They returned via a route known as the Coffin Road where nuthatches were spotted in the late afternoon sunshine.

The weather was better on the Sunday which encouraged the group of six to tackle a classic Wainwright route – ascent of Blencathra (868m) by the scramble of Sharp Edge, then descent by the Hall's Fell ridge.

16 October 2011 **West Drumochter**

Attendance - 10

After some debate, the walkers decided to start at the south end of the pass, so after some car shuttling from one end of the walk to another, they set off up the track alongside Allt Coire

Dhomain before climbing steeply up the north-eastern ridge of Sgairnach Mor. A bit of navigation work was needed in the low cloud before the old boundary fence posts leading the way to the top of Beinn Udlamain could be found. The route towards A' Mharconnaich switches sharply east and then north again to avoid losing a great deal of height – something a few of the leading walkers forgot in their haste to reach the next top. From A' Mharconnaich the walkers descended west then climbed northwards to the final summit of the day, Geal Charn, with its views down the length of Loch Ericht towards the cloud-covered top of Ben Alder. An easy descent to Balsporran cottage was followed by the second car shuttle procedure of the day to unite walkers with their transport home.

29-30 October 2011 Glen Clova Social meet

Attendance-18

A work party of 5 went up to Davie's Bourach for some roof repairs and a general tidy out. They admired the bright red door, recently repainted by Bob Railton. Weather was dreich. Social activities started with the club's 2nd annual boules championships, won by Rita Norrie and Bob Railton. Rain started and we moved indoors to prepare for the banquet, prepared by Carolyn, Linda and Colin. Afterwards there was a Halloween Party. Mel decided that syrup and doughnuts should replace the traditional treacle scones. Several took part in this rather clarty game. This was followed by dookin' for apples, in a rather small and deep basin. The rain had stopped and we moved outside for a firework display, including sparklers. The evening was rounded off by a "pin the tail on the donkey" game.

Nine stayed overnight, with 8 heading to Corrie Fee for a walk before packing up.

13 November 2011 Stobinian & Ben More

Attendance - 6

The members set off on yet another day which did not look too promising weather-wise. The walk started from the end of the road leading west from Balquhidder. This is not a walk where you get the chance to warm up gently, the steep relentless climb starting immediately from the roadside. Once the walkers reached the ridge beneath the summit cone, the sun was making valiant attempts at breaking through the grey cloud. The summit itself seemed to be above most of the cloud but it was the four walkers who continued to the summit of Ben More who got the full benefit of a temperature inversion, enjoying views of the Ben Lawers range piercing the clouds. All of the walkers met up again in Inverlochlarig Glen, making their way back through a boggy and mostly trackless pass. There was a sting in the tail on this walk, in that the very helpful landowner has erected some

signs directing walkers round the farm buildings, only to lead them into a knee-deep bog.

18-20 November 2011 Glencoe

Attendance - 12

Twelve members attended this weekend meet, staying at the Youth Hostel. On Saturday the majority of walkers headed for the Mamores, climbing Mullach nan Coreachan and Stob Ban. One member went solo on Bidean Nam Bian while another headed for Buchaille Etive Mor. The weather was fine and clear on Saturday but became overcast on the Sunday. However, ten members ventured out to Buchaille Etive Beag with another going down Glen Etive to climb Beinn Fionnlaidh. The final member went home.

11 December 2011 Lomond Hills

Attendance - 19

This walk was a bit different for the club. As this was a through walk with a fair distance between the start and end points, a bus was essential. The Treasurer was a bit nervous about the Meet Secretary's view that a bus should be taken regardless of numbers, but in the event an excellent turnout of nineteen members and guests attended. It was barely daylight as the walkers set off from Falkland at 8.30, climbing a well-made if relentless staircase through the woods to gain the open hillside beneath the radio mast. A further steep pull up partially frozen ground saw the walkers quickly reach the summit of East Falkland Hill. Disappointingly, the top of West Lomond was in cloud. A long gradual climb up the shoulder of West Lomond was followed by a very early refreshment stop, by FDHWC standards, in a sheltered spot before the steep climb to the summit. The chill wind and mist encouraged the walkers to move on quickly in the direction of Bishop Hill. A stop was made to explore the rockface at John Knox's pulpit, which has become very eroded with evidence of some recent rockfalls. Another climb followed, taking the walkers on to the broad plateau of Bishop Hill where several gliders silently watched over us as they made the most of the air currents around the hill. Just west of the summit, several members descended slightly to see the rock pinnacle called Carlin Maggie. The party were met by the bus at the foot of the path just outside Scotlandwell. The early finish allowed time to be spent exploring the narrow lanes and landmarks of Auchtermuchty, including the Sir Jimmy Shand statue and the Cycle Tavern. This meet was also notable for the sighting of a barn owl swooping down on to the grass verge in the early morning darkness as the bus headed through Fife. Despite the presence of some notable twitchers, only the sharp-eyed Meet Secretary spotted the white flash of the wings and the unmistakable round white face as it was momentarily dazzled by the bus headlights.

In the old days

by John Norrie

Photograph of RAF West Freugh mountain rescue team en-route to Arran for weekend exercise, including marshalling the Goat Fell race. Is John in this photo?



Standard person kit issue

- Single skin leather boots with tricouni nails (good for frostbite in winter)
- Seaboot stockings
- Army short gaiters
- Army? battledress
- Army? shirts
- Navy? pullovers
- Genuine string vests (great with a loaded rucsac)
- Windproof anorak, trousers, mitts
- Black oilskin coats, trousers, sou'wester
- Balaclava hat
- Bergen rucsac
- Rubber torch
- Snow goggles
- Ice axe (long wooden shaft)
- Waist rope sling and karabiner
- Sleeping bag (no camping mats in those days)

The airman 3rd from the right was the driver of the radio van. He wore the flying jacket out of necessity as the van had no side windows.