



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 41

June 2013

www.fdhwc.org.uk

President's Column

Mid-summer already! I was listening to Radio Scotland on the way in to work this morning – there was news of all sorts of plans to celebrate the solstice – from dancing round rings of stones to playing golf at midnight. The club has joined in celebrations in the past with many pilgrimages to Lochnagar. The last was about 10 years ago, when 3 of us (myself, David and Ian ?) set off from Glen Doll about 10pm, going by Sandy Hillocks to Loch Muick, then up by the waterfall to reach the summit of Lochnagar about 2.30 – chilly wait. We saw the sunrise about 4am then headed back via the tourist track to Loch Muick then back over the Capel Mounth reaching Glen Doll about 8am. My passengers fell asleep on the way home. It was a long way – 30k or so! Ian never came back to the club! I wonder why!

We are approaching the club's 50th anniversary. Several events are planned. The committee hope that today's members and many former members will join in the celebrations.

Have a good summer on the hills. Be safe.

Colin,
President

Weekend Meets - Autumn 2013

September	Invergarry
October	Glen Clova
November	Aultguish

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

50th anniversary

Mel volunteered at the AGM to head up the organising groups for the forthcoming anniversary celebrations. She has asked for volunteers – more required. Neil, Debbie and Elaine L are helping Mel. A separate group (Linda, Aileen and Carolyn) are organising the ceilidh. Events planned are
Mon 14th October – anniversary "things"
Sat 26th October – anniversary walk and buffet meal.
Sat 2nd November – anniversary ceilidh

Photographic Competition

The club's annual photographic competition was held on February 4th 2013. The judge is Graham Wilkinson from Carnoustie Camera Club. The winning entry was submitted by Linda Sinclair. All entries can be seen on the club web site. Here is the winning entry.



Change of rules

At the AGM, a motion to change the rules of the photographic competition was accepted and written into the constitution – see web site for updated copy. Basically, it allows a mixture of printed and digital material to be judged together, without requiring digital entries to be printed. The understanding is that the digital material has not been hand-crafted.

Bourach news

Bob Railton repainted the bourach door in May. The outstanding job for this summer is to replace the old post that marked the bourach for those heading towards Glen Clova.

'Far I wi noo' plaque

At the AGM in March, a vote was taken and Elaine Leong was given this award for an event that occurred in March 2012. She managed to wade the Nevis water below the Steall wire bridge while everyone else crossed the wires. Her award is entitled "Don't wade for me". Elaine was presented with her award at Members' Night on 15th April.

Curling

For the 2nd year in a row, there was a curling evening. The club joined forces with Carnoustie Panbride Badminton Club and together had 32 out on the rinks, followed by a meal. A big thanks to Bob Railton for organising this.

Abseiling

Two abseiling evenings were held in late April at the quarry in Balnashanner. Colin and Ian were the instructors – 7 members in total attended. Great fun was had by all.

Girds

A smaller than usual entry. Neil Sangster successfully defended his title and was presented with the trophy. Well done, Neil.

The Muffin Licker by an anonymous donor

They seek her here they seek her there, the plot
cannae be any thicker.

It's quite a mystery you must agree who is the
muffin licker?

She's sneakit, stealthy a master baker a champion
of the kitchen, But she's no happy unless it's a
muffin that she's lickin!

It happened back one fine day after walking and a
camp, when dishing out some fruit baked goods
with her slavers she did stamp.

She marked her prize with licks of glee as
onlookers did gape, at least it was a muffin not a
huge big slice of cake.

So who's this rogue who dared to shock with an act
so harrowing?

Beware in future the lickin tactics of our own
Carolyn!

Open Meetings Reports

January 2013 – Willie Mather gave an illustrated talk on his recent trip to Yellowstone National park and the Grand Teton National Park, USA.

February 2013 – Graham Wilkinson, Carnoustie Camera Club was judge again (5 years running now). A good entry and won by Linda Sinclair – see separate article.

March 2013 – Annual General Meeting.

April 2013 – after last year's successful introduction of this event, we repeated Members' Night, giving everyone 10 minutes to talk about 10 photographs. There was a good response and it was a great success.

May 2013 – a disappointing turn-out for the Girds Championship in Forfar. However, it was as fiercely fought over as usual. Neil retained his trophy.

June 2013 - a large group gathered at St. Cyrus National Nature Reserve for an interesting walk and blether. Thanks to Graham for organising this one.

Reminiscences of Bob Davidson buses

by John Norrie

In the early days of the club, transport for club meets was by that well known bus company, Bob Davidson. Other clubs, such as Carn Dearg Mountaineering Club also used Bob's buses and likewise had some epic journeys.

The most memorable incident happened one Sunday in January when the police decided to close the road at the Spittal of Glenshee because of the weather and abandoned vehicles on the road. So it was decided to turn the bus around and held for Dunkeld.

We had just got a few miles down the road at Finegand farm when a Ford Consul going in the opposite direction and too fast for the road conditions, crashed fair and square into the front of the bus. Realising what he had done, the driver of the car ran away leaving his two passengers slightly injured and being cared for by club members. Sometime later the Police and Ambulance arrived and the whole thing was sorted out.



In the meantime, Bill Morris (the bus driver) phoned "Auld Bob" from Finegand, telling him what had happened and he had a bus load of hillwalkers going nowhere, and what was Bob going to do about it?

About an hour or so later, Bob emerged out of an unknown van, in which he had hitched a lift from Blairgowrie. After a brief inspection of the damage to the front of the bus, and especially the burst radiator, Bob's instructions were (a) cut the fan belt (b) hard pack the engine with snow, (c) fill up the space at the front seats with snow.

Having started the engine, we were on the move. As we drove along the snow on the engine would naturally melt, but, there was the reserve snow inside the bus, which was kicked onto the engine to cool it. This pantomime continued until we were nearly running out of snow. In the meantime, the inside of the bus resembled a sauna.

To stock up with fresh snow, the bus was conveniently stopped on a rise on the road so as to get a "bump start" if necessary. After restocking with snow several times, we reached Blairgowrie where Bob had parked his "big" car. In a few minutes a tow rope was attached to the bus, a few "heavy" members were required as ballast on Bob's car and so the bus (without lights) and 26 passengers were successfully towed to Forfar. That was initiative.

One other boon associated with Bob's buses was that we could make tea while the bus was moving. This was generally at weekend meets.

Jim Nicol had a Calor gas double burner stove, which had been fitted into a wooden box, which incidentally was the same size as the front seat of the bus, once the cushions had been removed. So if the meet was to Aviemore, a stop would be made at Killiecrankie and the kettles would be filled., the stove would be installed and lit, and two members were required to stand behind the seat and hold down the heating kettles. By the time Drumochter was reached, the tea would be ready and the bridies handed out. It was part of the meet secretary's duties to ensure that the tea, sugar, milk, kettles, stove and gas were all aboard the bus.

How many "cuts" does it take to turn a 52 seater bus around in the escape tunnel of the Cruachan Power Station? Answers on a postcard please, as I don't have email.

In 1976 Angus Grewar wrote a fitting poem on Bob Davidson's bus. Copies are available.

More Munro changes?

Rumours circulating have suggested that the Munro Society is planning to re-measure more hills this summer - some of the high Corbetts (905m+) and low Munros (925m-) with a view to possible reclassification. Just climb them all!

Discovering the Cheviot Hills

By Bob Railton

These past months have led me into Northumberland due to family commitments where I made my base at the Riverside Caravan Park in Wooler. For my sins, being a Northumbrian, I was guilty of not knowing the area, therefore it was up to the highest point "The Cheviot" at 815m, a delightful walk which takes in some of the Pennine Way. A pint and meal in the Kirk Yetholm Hotel is highly recommended. Another half day walk was to Yeavinger Bell (The Hill of the Goats) and yes, they are there. The distance is 3-5 miles over 3 hours.

A much longer day was via the College Valley. Starting at the car park in Hethpool a bike ride for 3 miles took me to the stopping point at the Mounthooly Y.A. The walk is on good paths via the "Hen Hole" (beautiful little gorge) and onto the Mountain Refuge Hut at 497m. The return loop was via the War Time Monument which has been erected to the Airmen who lost their lives while training in the area. The different types of Aircraft are listed and these include Spitfires and Lancaster Bombers. A Spitfire crash site can be found at 9087522613.

Meet Secretary's Reports **January – June 2013**

2 January 2013 **Kinnoull Hill**

With severe gales forecast most members stayed in their beds. Of the four who turned up, one suggested going back home, one was determined to go ahead with the original plan to go to Creag Leacach in Glenshee and the remaining two suggested a compromise. With varying degrees of enthusiasm the four set off for Kinnoull Hill. Comments about rambling had to be withdrawn when they quickly found themselves trapped in a quarry and, rather than retrace their steps, they scrambled up and over the back wall of the quarry. The foursome followed the "blue" route markers to Jubilee Car Park, Deuchny Wood, detoured out to Macduff's Tower then Lynedoch Obelisk, back to Deuchny Wood, then up & round the clifftops above the Carse of Gowrie to the tower at the top of Kinnoull Hill. Cloudy, poor visibility at top.

20 January 2013 **Bennachie**

The High Tea meet got the year off to a good start with 22 members taking the bus from Sauchieburn to Bennachie. The hills had a good covering of fresh snow, the final approach road being quite tricky for the bus to

negotiate. As with our previous trip here, the time taken was underestimated and the final top of the day, Millstone Hill, was omitted. We arrived back at the Sauchieburn Hotel with little time to spare for our traditional High Tea.

10 February 2013 **Ben Challum**

Winter arrived with a vengeance and put paid to this meet.

22-24 February 2013 **Glen More, Cairngorms**

Members made the most of the good winter conditions on this weekend. There was an accident to start this weekend – Brian Coull fell after tripping on a kerb, smashing his head and breaking a finger (only diagnosed later). Three members went to Bynack Mor on Saturday, but unfortunately, it clouded in by the time the summit was reached. The remaining members walked into Ryvoan bothy, then climbed Meall a' Bhuachaille, and continued westwards on the ridge. Sunday arrived with snow showers, but this quickly turned into a fantastic winter's day. A group of 3 explored Carn an Fhreicheadain near Kingussie, and one was out on the Glen Feshie hills.

10 March 2013. **Glen Falloch**

5 members attended the Glen Falloch walk - 2 exploring (Meall an Fhudair) and 3 headed for Beinn Chabhair. Mixed weather with occasional views.

22-25 March 2013 **Aultguish**

The late wintry weather made travel virtually impossible and this weekend had to be called off. Happily the owners of the bunkhouse agreed to use our deposit for a weekend later in the year.

20-21 April 2013 **Glen Ey**

This was a new experimental type of meet for the club. The plan was to walk in to Glen Ey on Saturday, climb An Socach before a wild camp and then climb the neighbouring Munros of Beinn Iutharn Mor and Carn Bhac on the Sunday. Seven members camped out and had loosely arranged to meet another four walkers on Carn Bhac on the Sunday. An Socach was climbed on Saturday evening from the North West - a new direction for all. However, the poor early Sunday morning weather was the signal for a rather cold and wet group to walk out and head for the coffee shops of Braemar. Meanwhile, the Sunday walkers arrived in slowly improving weather and enjoyed a good day on Carn Bhac. The two groups never did meet up, the Sunday walkers having to forego the hoped-for cup of tea at the wild camp. The

day was notable for the number of antlers which were found on the hill and some tricky river crossings due to the recent rainfall and melting snow.

3-6 May 2013 **Skye**

Many of the members on this holiday weekend meet set off with fond memories of the weekend two years previously when Mediterranean weather was enjoyed on Skye. Alas, it was not to be this year, with high winds and rain keeping the walkers at a low level all weekend. One intrepid group made an attempt at climbing Blaven but soon turned back. Most of the others settled for two enjoyable coastal walks from Elgol northwards to the bothy at Camusunary and on the west coast from Orbost to McLeod's Maidens.

19 May 2013 **Chain Walk, Earlsferry**

A good turnout of sixteen members and guests turned out for this short but very entertaining walk on the Fife coast. The walk itself was only a few kilometres long but the vertical ascents and descents, together with explorations of numerous rock pools kept everyone occupied.

26 May 2013 **Lairig Ghru**

The classic route through the Cairngorms was tackled by sixteen members and guests. The weather was dry but the cloud cover persuaded all the members that the high-level route over Ben Macdui should be kept for another day.

9 June 2013 **Ben Avon from the East**

Eleven members turned out for this meet with varying degrees of enthusiasm for the long cycling part of the day, following a track which ran alongside the River Gairn for about 12km before leaving the bikes and setting off on foot, continuing up the river at first before climbing steeply up to the summit plateau. The warm, sunny morning mercifully gave way to more cloudy weather as the hardest part of the ascent started. The granite tor of Leabaidh an Daimh Buidhe provided a grandstand finish to the ascent and put several members in the mood for further scrambling on several of the other summit tors. The return route kept to the high ground as much as possible; following the county boundary east before descending steeply back to the bikes and another rough ride out.

16 June 2013 **Glen Esk**

Seventeen members turned out for this social meet in the prolonged spell of settled weather

we were enjoying. From the car park at Invermark the group made their way along the side of Loch Lee before a steep climb past the scenic Falls of Unich and, further up the glen, the Falls of Damff. Several members had binoculars and wheatears, meadow pipits and ring ouzels were spotted on the way. A final hard pull up to the top of Cairn Lick was rewarded with spectacular views down to Loch Lee and to the surrounding hills. The day was rounded off with high tea at the Panmure Arms Hotel in Edzell.

Views from the Rear – a quiz **by Neil Sangster**

We all spend time looking at the back of club members on the hill but how many of your walking buddies can you recognise? - Frank, you won't be able to do this quiz. There is a downside to being up front! The answers can be found later in the newsletter.

No 1. – A classic



No.2 – Return of the



No. 3 Not many will have seen this view



No. 4 She's got legs and she knows how to use them



No. 5 - An Osprey rucksack should help!!



No 8 – It's not me if that helps any

No 6 – I would struggle with this one and I took the photo.



ie photo.

No 7 – The sun has got its hat on



Club supplies mountain guides

The Kinross & Ochil Walking Club approached the club asking for volunteers to help out with their intended walks in the Angus Glens on the 25th and 26th May.

Stuart Ferguson and Alan McIntosh led the group on Saturday up Jock's Road to Loch Esk and down from Bachnagairn, the walk was completed in brilliant sunshine and around 6.5 hours.

The Sunday walk was led by Bob Railton and Nan Hargreaves to Mayar via Corrie Fee and back by the Kilbo Path, The group of 11 walked into Corrie Fee and 3 members decided to call it a day and waited for the 2nd group from their club to return to the visitors centre. The main group continued through Corrie Fee onto the summit of Mayar where one member announced it was his first Munro. This was celebrated by cups of tea and coffee along with chocolates and strawberries. The descent was via the Kilbo path. The time was 5.5 hours with good 360 degree views from the summit.

Bob and Nan met the group at the Clova Hotel on the Friday evening for a delightful meal. Bill Bedborough thanked the Forfar Club for all of our help.

WHAT THE F.D.H.W.C.
MEANS TO ME.

Fleeting personal impressions,
reminiscences and highlights.

By Linda Sinclair

F Far i' wi noo? Fifty years a hill walking club.

O "Oops! Far I' wi noo?" - the oft heard call of the Greater (or is that Lesser?) Forfar & District Hill Walker.

R Rare days out on the hills. Rain. Ridges.

F Friendship. Friends, old and new over the years. Flasks. Fannichs. Fisherfield. Fungle Path. Flora and fauna. Freezing winter days - and freezing summer days, too.

A "A good day was had by all." - The traditional ending of the Meet Secretary's report.

R River crossings - most uneventful, but some..... well.....Sinky's Leap springs to mind.

a Angus Glens. Arran. An Teallach. A' Mhaighdean. Abseiling off the Inn Pin.

n Nineteen eighty - the year Colin and I joined the FDHWC.
(Age 27!)

d Driesh and Mayar - our local hills.
Drinks in the bar after a good day's walking. Discussions round the map.

D Deer. Dotterel. Dangling off the Inn Pin!

I Inchnadamph - some great weekends here. Inn Pin. Ice axes. Icy slopes and

paths. Icicles. Insects - midges, ticks, clegs, flies.

S Scotland's stunning scenery. Secretary of the FDHWC with three Presidents : Willie Milne, Rita Norrie, Stuart Fergusson. Sandwiches. Sunny, hot summer days. Scrambling. Stravaiging. Sair feet. Social meets. Scree. Snow. Sleet. Skiing - to Ben Macdui then a fabulous descent of Lurcher's Gully, also skiing the Clova hills from the Bourach round all the summits to Broad Cairn, then back the same way! Sunrise - midsummer - on Lochnagar. Skye, Schiehallion. Suilven. Steall Bridge and Steall Falls. Stalwarts of the FDHWC. Sorry, no M for Munros or Munroists!

T Too many great days out to remember them all. Tow rope, old and frayed for the hard bit on An Teallach - Brian pulled, Colin pushed. Trig points. Train to Corroul Halt.

R Remote hills. Rucksacks. Ropes. Red grouse. Reminiscing about rare days out.

I I have so many good memories.

C Corbetts - enough said! Corbetteers. Ciste Dhubh - my last Munro. Capel Mounth - FDHWC's first walk, and now the anniversary walk. Cairngorms. Compass. Crampons. Changing on the bus. Colin strolling apparently effortlessly into the distance. Children on club walks. Clegs. Cuckoos. Celebrations on the summit for last Munros and Corbetts.
"Colin Sinclair, you ***** *****!"
echoing round Coire Lagan.

T Torridon - stunning. Tracks. Tired legs. Tablet. Ticks.

H Hills. Heather. Hailstones. Holidays abroad with the FDHWC in Majorca and Madeira. Hallowe'en Parties in Whitehaugh - wild and great fun. Honorary members. Helicopter rescue.

Head torch. "How am I going to get up/down this?"

I *Imagining all the great days out still to come.*

L Lots of laughter. Lochs Brandy and Wharral, Lee and Muick.

L *Liathach. Lochs. Lochnagar. Linn of Dee. Lairigs - Lairig Ghru and Lairig an Laoigh. Ladhar Bheinn. Lake District. Lycra.*

W Weekend meets. Whitehaugh. Weather. Waterproofs. Woolly toories. Winter conditions. Wind. Walking poles. Worthies of the FDHWC.

A *At the coo's tail. Adventures. Achievement.*

L Long days for big walks in summer. Last Munros and 35 Munroists in the FDHWC.

K *Knoydart - superb. Kintail - also superb. Kicking steps in snow slopes (when winters were longer and harsher).*

I Islands - Rum, Skye, Mull, Arran. Indoor meetings.

N *Navigation.*

G Glens - Glen Clova, Glen Doll, Glen Esk, Glen Lethnot, Glen Prosen, Glen Isla. Golden Eagle. Golden Plover. Grim days out and great days out. Gaiters and gutters. Gloves. Gear (and its labels!) G.P.S. Gales.

C *"Climb every Mountain..." - preferably a Munro, but for others, a "wee exploration" is good. Club camps in summers past. Carn Dearg Club Hut - the old one - good times and overnight stays. Club Ceilidhs. Club competitions - photo and quiz. Calendar - for meets and indoor meetings. Classic Scottish*

mountain walks. Comfort stops - with panoramic views!

L Low cloud.

U *Unbelievably superb scenery. Unforgettable moments and experiences.*

B Bealachs. Bourach. Bachnagairn. Broad Cairn. Bothies. Bike meets. Burns. Bridges - some gey shoogly. Birds - the ptarmigan is my favourite. Bracken. Brocken Spectre. Bla Bheinn - Gary Adam's last Munro and the worst weather I've had on a hill - unforgettable! Beinn Eighe. Beinn Alligin. Beinns - all the other memorable ones! Barrisdale. Boots. Bus. Banter. The brew up - very welcome - on our return to the bus in days gone by. Bagpipes - John's, Dave's and Stuart's.

Answers to Neil's quiz

- No 1- John Norrie
- No 2- The Angus Stallion
- No 3 - Elaine Leong
- No 4 - Carolyn
- No 5 - Steve
- No 6 - Linda
- No 7 - Colin Barnett
- No 8 - Brian (Debbie's better half)