



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

www.fdhwc.org.uk

Newsletter 48 July 2017

President's Column

Firstly, apologies, for the lack of newsletter in December, due to a family bereavement. Thankfully normal business has been resumed so here is newsletter number 48.

I think we've all experienced some decent weather on the hills recently, so hopefully that will continue through the summer. The club meets will be covered elsewhere so I won't duplicate the Meet Secretary's Report!

I enjoyed a great week in Sutherland at the end of May, during that trip on Monday to Friday we saw a total of 4 other people! The following Sunday some of us were out in the Cairngorms and I think we encountered more than that in the first five minutes! It just goes to show, if its solitude you are looking for in the hills, if you travel far enough away from the main centres of population, you will find it. We had the most amazing day doing a traverse of Fionaven. If the summit had been found to be 1m higher during the most recent survey by the Munro Society it would be the most northerly Munro and hence significantly busier!

The club has just visited Rum for the first time in many years, a most enjoyable long weekend, there are accounts of previous trips to Rum in this newsletter.

Next year's meet calendar has been published and I hope that there is something on it for everyone's taste, highlights for me are the two weekends in May and June, both different, both special.

The health and wellbeing of our club relies on new members and I'm glad to report that we are still attracting new and enthusiastic people to our club, so thanks for joining and I hope you enjoy the experience, tell others, we're always keen to encourage people to join us.

At this year's AGM, the only change was Neil Sangster standing down as Meet Secretary and being replaced by our newest (honorary) member, Colin Sinclair. Thanks go to Neil for his work as both Assistant Meet secretary and Meet Secretary. He is continuing in his role as weekend coordinator which is a great help to Clare Stewart.

I hope you all enjoy your summer of walking and I look forward to seeing you all at some or all of the events in the coming year.

Best wishes to you all
Graham

50 years of club membership!

Congratulations to Rita and John Norrie, who have been club members for 50 years (1966-2016). They joined only 3 years after the club's formation. At the October social gathering, Rita and John were honoured by the president and presented with a book of memories, consisting of photos and anecdotes supplied and written by club members.



New Meet Calendar

Now online. First meeting Monday 7th August.
First meet: Sunday 13th August. If you don't have your paper copy yet, see Clare.

Club News

A warm welcome to the following new members, we hope that you enjoy your time in the club!

Morag Mackenzie
Laura Lindsay
Wendy Calder
James Lockwood
Chris Coles
Alex Smith (a former member)

The following members have not re-joined for 2017/18 :-

Lee Jamieson
Alan Edwards
Jeff Williams

Roll of Honour 2016/17

Boules Champions 2017

Nicola Hay and Janet Coull were worthy winners of the new Sinclair Boules Trophy, thanks go to Colin and Linda Sinclair for kindly donating such a distinctive trophy.

A competitive tournament played on our official boules pitch outside the Carn Dearg hut at the Halloween party in October.



Incident of the Year 2016

A stitched up shoo-in for Graham Brown's navigational incompetence for getting lost twice on his way to the Trossachs, when questioned about it, he blamed his travelling companions for distracting him with good chat.

Girds Champion 2017

Like the great Brazil football teams of the 50s, 60s and 70s, Neil Sangster has made the Gird trophy his own, winning it for a record beating 6th time! Congratulations, Neil, you are indeed, a natural athlete. The competition was more hard fought than usual, but true champions always raise their game. Thankfully there were no sports injuries this year as a rigorous warm up routine was enforced.

Photographic competition 2017 winners

Best individual Photograph and winner of the Brian Coull Memorial Trophy: Mrs Rita Norrie with a picture of the hills of Harris.

Best Group of Photos and winner of the Norrie Trophy: Mr Bob Railton for a group of seasonal photographs.

Many thanks to William and Shelia Mather for donating the Brian Coull Memorial Trophy in memory of our great friend and club member. Thanks also go to John and Rita Norrie for donating the Norrie Trophy as a thanks for all the years of pleasure the club has given them. We now have two magnificent trophies to compete for in the years to come.



Swimming a Loch for Spinal Research

By Elaine Leong

I would just like to thank everyone in the club for their generous support of my recent fundraising efforts to raise funds for Spinal Research.

I swam Loch Skene, Lochy and Leven (Kinlochleven) which was about 1300 x 25m lengths of the pool and raised £510. However, my efforts are small compared to the whole team which swam a staggering 32603 lengths. That is basically the distance from Stonehaven to London 525.8 miles or 933.28 km. A total of £12,600 was raised for Spinal Research. Thank you once again for making this fund raising project such a success.

This article was missed from Newsletter 47 – apologies for that, the editor.

Meeting & Events Reports

Monday 8th August 2016 - outdoors meeting - Glen Ogil

12 members attended. A walk to climb St. Arnolds Seat. Met at 19:00 at the steading at Goynd Farm (NO447626) and drove up in 3 cars to Redheugh. A beautiful clear evening, with a bit of a breeze. Back just as darkness fell.

Monday 5th September 2016

After the open meeting, Graham Harris gave an interesting illustrated presentation of his thorough preparations for tackling the TGO challenge and his experiences while on the trek. The meeting was well-attended.

Monday 3rd October 2016

Held at Guide Centre. Forfar. Open Meeting, followed by a talk, "Grassick Gibbon" by Jim Brown. Well attended

Monday 7th November 2016

Held in Forfar Fire Station. A good attendance of members. Following the meeting Linda & Colin Sinclair and Carolyn Smith gave an illustrated talk on their recent trip to Corsica to walk the GR20.

Monday 5th December 2016

Held in Forfar Fire Station. The open meeting was followed by a CPR demonstration and practical from a member of the Fire Station.

Monday 9th January 2017

Held in Forfar Fire Station. The open meeting was followed by a talk, "Nepal with Raleigh ICS" by member Claire Richardson. Claire spent 5 months volunteering in Nepal during 2016.

Monday 6th February 2017

The open meeting was followed by the photographic competition. There were 11 entrants and 55 photos. The judge was Graham Wilkinson (Carnoustie Camera Club), on his 9th year in the position. The winner of the individual photograph was Rita Norrie with a picture of the Harris Hills taken from North Uist. Rita was awarded with the brand new "Brian Coull Trophy", kindly donated by Willie & Sheila Mather. The winner of the best group of 3 was won by Bob Railton (Glen Clova collection). Bob was awarded with the brand new trophy, kindly donated by Rita & John Norrie.

Monday 6th March 2017

Open meeting followed by AGM. The president announced Colin Sinclair is to be made an honorary member. A good turnout. Minutes of last AGM approved. Treasurer's Report approved. President's report and Meet Secretary's reports were presented. Committee same as last year, except Colin replaces Neil as Meet Secretary. New auditors appointed - John MacDonald and Steve Wilson. The meeting was followed by an excellent illustrated talk by John

Norrie on Whitehaugh, the former club hut from 1968-2002.

Mon 10th April 2017

The Open meeting followed by Members night. Around 15 attended. After the meeting, 7 members presented 10 photos each on various topics.

Monday 8th May 2017

Outdoors meeting - games night. 12 members and a guest attended the annual games night in the Reid Park, Forfar on a dry sunny, but chilly night. Neil once again won the girds competition - that's six years in a row! This was followed by tea and buns in Carolyn's camper van. Then followed a game of French cricket with play ending at 21:15 due to the chilly dusk.

Monday 5th June 2017

Outdoor Meeting - 9 members and a guest attended this evening ramble. The group started from Balkello Woods car park and climbed Balkello Hill then Auchterhouse Hill. Despite a day of rain, the walk was undertaken in good dry conditions with great views all round and with local member Roy Rennie telling us what they were seeing.

Club visit to Rum - 1998

by Colin Sinclair

The previous visit was on Saturday 2nd - Monday 4th May 1998. 16 members attended. Of those who attended then, only Colin & Linda returned 19 years later for the recent meet. This is reported in newsletter 13 (July 1998). There was no ferry on Friday at that time, so we had to catch the 05:00 on Saturday morning - but still managed Orval later that day. Ridge on Sunday and home on Monday. We stayed in the original bunkhouse accommodation - these white buildings next to the hall and shop.

From Newsletter 13 (July 1998)

This weekend was very well attended and proved popular with all the club members that attended, despite the weather conditions. Members made their way to Mallaig on Friday night, meeting at a local hostelry for a meal and a couple of drinks. Not much sleep was had (Sheena's backpackers Hostel), irrespective of whether you were lucky enough to have a bed or were ensconced on the floor. This was due to the all night street party, held directly outside our bunk-house. As it was we had to be up early to board the boat, so early Saturday saw club members making their way, bleary eyed to the harbour. After a fairly calm crossing we eventually landed at the little jetty at Rum where we were instructed by a worker for the Scottish Natural Heritage on the do's and don'ts when staying on the island. Landing at a little after lunchtime provided members with

sufficient time to get settled in their respective lodge rooms and then climb Orval, a hill situated in the North-West of the island. A stiff breeze met us as we made our way along the top of the hill, however this was offset by the tremendous views of Skye across the sound of Rum. Sunday saw an early start by all, setting off to do the Rum Cuillin. The day started promisingly, weather wise, but unfortunately low cloud robbed us of what would have been spectacular views, as we made our way along the undulating ridge. Some entertaining scrambling was had en-route and members had to find some extra energy to allow them to complete the ridge, which eventually took approximately 12 hours. One group, who occupied one of the lodges concocted "The Order of the Bath" a rota designed to ensure that all were able to enjoy a hot bath (up to the pencil mark, anyway) on returning from their hard day on the hill. Monday provided members with an opportunity of visiting Kinloch Castle on Rum and being entertained by the guide (who doubles as the ferryman) who related an interesting and humorous history of the castle and its playboy owner.

Remembering Rum

By Graham Brown

In the Easter holidays of 1990 I visited Rum with the Aberdeen University Exploration Society.

From the point of view of hill bagging it was not very successful, only Barkeval was climbed as, typically for that part of the world, the weather was somewhat inclement!

I remember leaving Aberdeen late in the night to drive to Mallaig for the early morning ferry, I drove the last leg from Fort William to avoid travel sickness. Back then the pier couldn't accommodate the CalMac ferry, so an estate tender met us in Loch Screscort and we were transferred down into the smaller boat.

We were staying in the white house bunkhouse near to the castle (at the back of the present community hall) where the only source of heating was from a Raeburn stove, which we took great delight in stoking with coal until the exhaust pipe was glowing red hot, causing drying socks to char!

I foolishly decided to make a weeks' worth of rolls prior to departure in Aberdeen, an exercise I have never repeated.

As we were a student group one of the conditions of being allowed by the Nature Conservancy Council (who ran Rum back then) was to undertake some conservation work, so we were tasked with a day's Rhododendron bashing, I think at the back of the castle. Back breaking hard work for a bunch of workshy, soft handed beer swilling students.

On the Sunday, the Red Deer study area near Kilmory was open to visitors and some of us went up to meet the scientist who lived up there, where she described to us her life's work which was the study of the local red deer population.

I have very fond memories of that trip to Rum in 1990 and I have always looked forward to a return to that magical and special place, so hopefully our weekend there in June will live up to expectations.

It did – though weather might have been better!

Small Ads

For Sale

Various Guide Books to The Munros and copy of Munro's Tables. No longer required as now a disciple of the New Testament.
Apply G.Brown (President)

Wanted

Stabilisers for adult bicycle, must come with instructions
Contact C.Sinclair

Wanted

Cycling trousers (non lycra) required to spare the Club members the sight of the Angus Stallion parading about, dazzling club members with his milky white legs and scaring the women members.
Contact W.Mather

Wanted

Road atlas and or updated Sat-Nav suitable for an Audi.
Contact G.Brown

For Sale

30cl opened bottle of Glenfiddich Malt Whisky
Can be viewed on any club weekend, any offers accepted or free to a good home
Contact G.Thomson

Urgently Required

1000t of type 2 aggregate, a 5t tracked mini digger and approximately 5000m of 100mm diameter drainage pipe.
Contact Friends of Dibidil Pony Track (aka FDHWC)

Ben Vuirich trig-point repainted!

Our adopted trig-point was repainted at the social meet in June (see article on meet reports). Here is a photo of Debbie and Brian in their overalls with paint brushes in hand.



This photo and some others were sent to Sandtex (Crown Paints), who have forwarded it to their marketing department!

The report was also sent to Ordnance Survey who replied *"Thank you for your message regarding your adopted trig point. It is great to hear you are taking such good care of this point of geographical reference. I will pass on the information to our geodetics team for information. If you should wish to send in a photo please feel free to do so by reply."* Photos were sent in to OS

Mountain Mind Quiz 2017

Held in Queens Hotel, Dundee on Wednesday 8th March 2017, and run by Breadalbane Rock & Ice. A team consisting of Graham, Carolyn and Colin finished 4th with a score of 87, behind Perth MC (97), Grampian MC A (94.5), Grampian MC B (91.5). There were 13 teams in total. Our reserves of Linda, Willie and Nicola H. got a respectable score too, as spectators.

Gone Missing **Whitehaugh Bridge plaque**

After the June day meet on 11th June, Bob, Morag & Colin visited the bridge at Whitehaugh as Bob had reported that one of the plaques had been removed. It was found that the plaque with the club logo has been unscrewed and removed. This could only be of interest to club members. Anyone know where it might be?

Here is a photo taken 5th October 2008 by Steve Wilson, after the plaques had been returned to the bridge.



Annual Banquet and Halloween Party - a recent history

Halloween parties were part of the club's social calendar for many years, held at the club hut, Whitehaugh. The club gave up Whitehaugh in 2002 so Halloween parties couldn't continue. However in September 2010, a social "banquet" was held at the Carn Dearg hut and the first boules tournament took place. Only 9 members attended. In 2011, it was moved to the end of October and became boules / banquet / Halloween event and 18 attended. It was held again in 2012 with 18 attending. It was removed from the calendar in 2013 due to the 50th anniversary celebrations, but came back in 2014 and 2015 with 19 attending each. This year, there was a record number of attendees for the modern era - 42 members, ex-members and guests. The reason was the 50th celebrations for John and Rita. See separate article.

Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletters are available online at <http://www.fdhwc.org.uk/newsletters>.

Meet Reports

Sun 14 August 2016

16 headed to Ben Lomond from Cromer Farm, which was our first use of the mini-bus to try to reduce bus costs as the club normally takes a hit on the bus. This seemed to be quite successful and will be repeated and thanks to Richard for driving.

Sun 11 September 2016

An Casteil and Beinn a Chroin. 3 members and 1 guest turned out. It was a warm, dry day with good visibility, but a bit windy on top.

Frid 23 to Sunday 25 September 2016

Altguish bunkhouse. Of the 17 people who booked, 7 called off at the last minute due to a poor weather forecast which proved to be wrong. On the Saturday, 5 headed to Beinn Dearg and Cona Mheall, 2 separate coastal walks and 2 doing their own thing lower down. Weather mainly dry, only cloudy on the higher tops and virtually no wind. On Sunday, 2 headed to Sgurr-choinnich and Sgurr-a-chaorachain at Glen Carron but turned back at Bealach Bhearnais due to wind and headed to Glenmore lodge for dinner. Everyone else headed home.

Sun 16 October 2016

3 members and 1 guest climbed Ben Ledi on a dismal day. The weather forecast was quite good but the persistent rain had other ideas and the members who didn't attend got it right for once. After climbing Ben Ledi, the group followed the President charge down a path going to the wrong place and some re-accident was grudgingly necessary. We got soaked.

Sat 29 to Sun 30 October 2016

A combined social meet and weekend meet at the Carn Dearg Hut. The boules tournament went ahead along with a wonderful banquet and a Halloween party and fireworks. We also celebrated the Norries' 50 years in the club (see separate article). Some members stayed the night in the hut.

Sun 13 November 2016

Day meet to Meall Ghaordaidh. 3 members and 2 guests attended. 1 other member also joined us and opted for a lower level walk. Weather dry but misty from about 1/2 way up and feeling distinctively wintry by the time we reached the summit with some ice and snow underfoot. Descent made before bad weather arrived.

Frid 18 to Sunday 20 November 2016

Weekend meet to Lake District. 10 members attended. Stayed at YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe, which was very comfortable. There were issues with their alcohol policy. Meet held in wintry conditions. On Saturday, 7 members did a partial round of Easedale, reaching Sergeant Mann and descent by Blea Rigg, in deep soft

snow. Fantastic views in snow-showery conditions. Descent at 5pm in dark. 2 members went to Borrowdale for a shorter walk. One stayed in the Grasmere area. On Sunday, 4 headed to Borrowdale to climb Cat Bells. 2 headed east to Housesteads and Hexham, 2 explored the coffee shops of Grasmere and the other two headed home.

Sun 11 December 2016

Day meet to Morven. 11 members attended. Travelled by 3 shared cars to Balhennie. The group contoured round the south side to reach the summit (872m) and made their descent directly eastwards. It was a clear cool day with strong winds on top. Many mountain hares, in winter coats, were spotted, along with lots of red grouse and 2 golden eagles on the descent. The group were out for 5 hours, but still returned home as mid-winter darkness fell.

Tues 27 December 2016

Christmas meet to Glen Esk - 19 members and 3 guests attended. Met at Edzell at 09:00. Started at the top car park in Glen Esk, walked along Loch to Inchgrundle, then ascended Burnt Hill and Cairn Caidloch. Descent was to Gleneffock farm (lots of hens) and then followed river to the green footbridge before the last 1km up the road back to the cars. (13.2k, 590m of ascent). Beautiful sunny day with good views (as far as Ben Avon) with a thin covering on snow underfoot. White hares and red grouse spotted. About half the group reassembled in the Panmure Arms for a refreshment and blether afterwards.

Tues 3 January 2017

New Year meet to Glen Isla. 13 members and 1 guest attended. Met at Kirkton of Glen Isla at 09:15. Started at roadside at Dalvanie and walked up Glen Beannie to the bealach. Ascended Craigenloch Hill (738m) and stopped for lunch. Then onto Monameanach (807m) and returned by Creagan Caise ridge to Glen Beanie at 14:45. A pleasant circuit, undertaken in strong westerly winds, with a touch of soft snow underfoot. The group reassembled in the Glenisla Hotel for refreshments and a blether afterwards.

Sunday 22 January 2017

High Tea Meet. 19 members and 2 guests walked over the Fungle Road from Aboyne to Tarfside in Glen Esk. Bus left Sauchieburn Hotel at 07:15. 3 members walked to Charr bothy and then climbed Clachnaben. 6 members walked from the Blue Gate to the Rocks of Solitude. Weather - cold, cloudy but clear with some snow flurries. 34 members and 3 guests attended the following high tea in Sauchieburn Hotel. As usual, a splendid feast was provided.



Sun 12 February 2017

Western Drummocher. 8 members attended. 5 did a round of Sgraineach Mhor, Beinn Udlamain and A' Mharconaich. 3 turned back at Sgraineach Mhor. Conditions were soft snow underfoot. It was a cold clear day when the group set out from the side of the A9 and it did not get windy until higher up, but stayed dry all day.

Frid 17 – Sun 19 February 2017

Weekend meet - Corran Ferry Bunkhouse. 12 members attended. The club had already stayed several times in this excellent bunkhouse. Friday started with a 7pm ferry crossing for a pub meal in the Inn at the other side. Unfortunately Saturday's weather wasn't kind :- low cloud, drizzle and occasional showers. However 5 groups were out :- 2 climbed Curved Ridge on Buachaille Etive Mor in challenging conditions, 2 climbed both peaks of Buachaille Etive Beag, 2 walked to Steal falls then took the ferry over to Ardgorr for a short low-level walk. 2 did a longer low-level walk just across the ferry, 4 went to Ardtornish Castle and had a low-level walk to Ardtornish Point. Sunday's weather was just as poor. 5 went home. 2 walked up Glen Righ. 5 found better weather at Dalwhinnie and climbed the Fara and took an interesting descent to look at Dirc Mhor and Dirc Beag (glacial meltwater channels - the best examples in Britain).

Sun 12 March 2017

Day meet - Stuchd an Lochain, Glen Lyon. 10 members attended. There was a bright start but the group was in mist and light rain on the top, but it was brighter on the descent.

Frid 17 - Sun 19 March 2017

Weekend meet – Galloways. The club's 3rd visit to the Loch Ken Sailing Centre. 7 members and guests attended the Galloway weekend, staying at the Galloway Activity Centre on the banks of Loch Ken. Most of the centre was still closed for the winter. This unfortunately seemed to extend to their catering facilities and website as the expected burger night and breakfasts did not materialise, our host saying that he did not receive the email with our meal order. The

weekend was notable for another club "completion", with Alex Smith completing his round of Donalds. The Donald in question was Caerloch Dhu, an outlying top of Shalloch on Minnoch. Four walkers opted to accompany Alex, with the remaining two weekenders heading for Dumfries to meet friends from across the border. In very dreich weather, two walkers turned back before reaching the top of Shalloch on Minnoch. The remaining three reached the top in challenging weather and terrain for navigation, one waiting there while Alex was accompanied to his final Donald with one witness just to make sure he did it. The weather on Sunday was even worse, and three headed home on the excuse of having no dry gear (or enthusiasm) while two brave souls went for another soaking on Cairnsmore of Carsphairn. The remaining two went east to Tinto in the hope of finding better weather.

Sun 16 April 2017

Day meet to Fersit. 9 members attended and travelled in 3 cars to Fersit, leaving at 07:10. Walking from Fersit started at 09:40. A group of 4 climbed Stob a' Coire Mheadhoin (1105m) and Stob Coire Easain (1115m). The other group of 5 climbed Stob Coire Scriodain (979m) and Chno Dearg (1046m). There was some fresh soft snow lying above 700m. Light snow flaked through in the morning with cloud lying over the tops, but by lunchtime, conditions cleared and good views were seen all around. The last walkers returned to the cars at 17:40. Unfortunately, there was a mix-up over chip-shop venues. Some stopped in Blair Atholl and others in Dunkeld! Last car back to Forfar at 20:45. A long day.

Frid 28 April - Mon 1 May 2017

Weekend meet – Plockton, 19 members enjoyed a dry weekend in the northwest, based at the Station Bunkhouse in Plockton. On Friday 3 other members joined some of the 19 for a climb of Blaven. Here are some of the hills climbed. Friday: Blaven, Sgurr Mhic Bharraich. Saturday: Bruach na Frithe, Am Basteir, Fuar Toll, The Storr, Saileg, Sgurr a' Bhealach Dheirg, Aonach Meadhoin. Sunday: Ciste Dhubh, Beinn Bhan, Sgurr a' Mhaoraich, Carnan Cruithneachd. Monday: An Ruadh-stac, Sgurr an Airgid. As well as these outings, some had a day off exploring Applecross, and the Plockton area. The excellent seafood in the local hosteleries was sampled too.

Sun 14 May 2017

Social Meet – Deeside. 12 members and a guest attended this (rather tough) social meet, based at Keiloch in the Invercauld Estate, meeting there at 9:15. 2 elected to go mountain biking, first to the clachan of Auchtavan (which was the destination for a social meet on Aug 26th 2012), and then to Linn o' Quoich and onto Mar Lodge. 11 set off to climb the two Corbetts, the double topped Carn Liath and Culardoch. Unfortunately one member fell ill on Carn Liath and had to return to the car with the guest. The remaining

9 climbed both hills, firstly Carn Liath then Culardoch. The walk took 8 hours (9:30 to 5:30). The weather was mixed - warm in the sunshine and cooler as some heavy showers crossed over (even hail on the hills). Afterwards, 11 members and the guest had a lovely meal in the Boat Inn, Aboyne. A successful day.

Sun 21 May 2017

Day Meet – Tyndrum. 5 members attended. This meet was supposed to be by bus and include a traverse walk. However, due to lack of numbers, the bus was cancelled and 4 of the group travelled by car instead, meeting a Glasgow based member. The group walked in from Dalrigh with the intention of climbing Beinn Dubhchraig and Ben Oss. The first problem was crossing a burn where there used to be a bridge. Unfortunately one member fell into the burn, but continued the walk. Not long after that it started to rain and after 2 hours of this it was decided that if the group summited Beinn Dubhchraig and it was still raining, they would come back down without going to Ben Oss which they did. When the group got back to the burn it had risen by several inches and most decided to wade across and just get wet feet! An interesting day - good for character building!

Sun 11 June 2017

Day Meet - Glen Clova. 8 members attended. This meet was supposed to have been to Monagh Mor and Beinn Bhrotain by bike. However due to the poor weather forecast it was cancelled. Instead we kept local and headed to Glen Clova, and met up at Dykehead at 08:15. All 8 members walked to the bourach, with 5 continuing to Tolmont and Tom Bhuide. Ptarmigan chicks were spotted on Crow Craigies. The remaining 3 retreated to the cars, stopped at the Whitehaugh bridge for a peek for the missing plaque, and had coffee at the hotel. The remaining 5 were down by 16:00 and had a fish supper at Kirriemuir. Weather was mixed with some heavy showers crossing over and a strong west wind. The White Water was swollen and quite impressive. 2 rebels went to Monagh Mor and Beinn Bhrotain, and saw nothing!

Sun 18 June 2017

Social Meet - Ben Vuirich. Only 3 members turned up for this meet on a clear sunny day. They left the Myre at 07:10 and were ready to cycle at 08:15. They cycled 12.5k up Glen Fearnach from the roadend at Straloch. The road is tarmaced until Daldhu, then the track gets a bit rougher. The group continued to the ruin near the join with Glen Loch where the bikes were left. The walk rounded the northern end of Ben Vuirich to the gentler slopes on the west side. The top was reached at 12:15. After lunch, Brian and Debbie donned dungarees and grabbed paint brushes to make the trig point look as good as new. Descent was by the steep north ridge, which offered great views of Loch Loch, right through to the Devil's Point, Lairig

Ghru and Ben MacDui beyond. The ride back down the glen took 80 minutes and the cars were reached at 15:20. It was too early for a meal, so the group headed home.

Frid 23 - Mon 26 June 2017

Weekend Meet - Isle of Rum. 19 members attended. Friday: Caught 12:35 ferry to Rum. Some hurried off for a visit to the castle. Saturday: Group of 3 headed for Orval & the western hills. 3 went to Harris then Kilmory. The rest headed for Kilmory (some went further to Samhman Insir). Weather: strong winds and blustery showers, but bright inbetween showers. Sunday: Group of 8 tackled the whole Rum ridge (Hallival onwards), left at 07:00 back at 20:45. Big day! Unfortunately the cloud was down on the tops, though there were a few views seen during the day. Still a strong wind. 2 headed for Hallival and Barkeval, meeting up with 2 others on Barkeval and returning by point 411m (now renamed Plover Hill) and returned by the geologists' path - good views under the cloud cover. 3 headed to Harris to see the mausoleum. 4 headed towards the Dibibil bothy, but the poor condition of the path forced them back early. Those back early saw a celebrity - the NTS cruise ship "Hebridean Princess" came in with Richard Wilson and a film crew among those landing. We got a wave on his return back to the boat from the film set at the castle. Monday: Most took the 12:55 boat going via Canna, back to Rum and then Eigg before returning to Mallaig. The remaining few took a tour of the castle before catching the boat at 15:05 on its return from Canna. Summary: Good weekend, though weather might have been kinder. Bunkhouse was a bit clarty in the kitchen area and the showers, but it's a lovely building in a lovely location.

Sun 9 Jul 2017

Meet Secretary's Mystery Meet. This was cancelled due to lack of interest – presumably because of the very poor weather forecast.

AOCB

Borrowing the title from that popular section of our open meeting (more likely that I couldn't think of anywhere else to include these snippets).

Davie's Bourach Work Party

Following visits by individual members and a rescheduled club meet to Glen Doll, there is a requirement for some work to be done on our very own bourach. If anyone wants to lend a hand, please get in touch with Graham and he will coordinate a suitable date.

Tea & Biscuit Fund

It was decided at a recent committee meeting to charge a small fee (50p to £1, depending on one's generosity) for refreshments at our open meetings in the fire station. Thanks go to both Carolyn Smith and Bob Railton, who both take turns on tea duty.