

# Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: [www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk](http://www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

**The Meet on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April is to Ballachulish and Kentallen**

### DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 and travel via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn, Currys PC World, comfort stop in Callander. It is estimated to arrive at Ballachulish for first drop-off at 10.45, then proceed to Kentallen, with a further drop-off if required about 2km south of Kentallen, at the west end of Glen Duror (NM995555). It will return to Ballachulish at 11.00 and park near the Tourist Information Centre at NN084584.

**Departure times:** Ballachulish Tourist Info 17.30; Glen Coe visitor centre 17.35; Kingshouse 17.45; Bridge of Orchy 18.05; Tyndrum 18.15; Lochearnhead 18.55; Callander 19.50; arrive Edinburgh approx. 21.00.

**Bookings and cancellations:** either 1. (Preferably) Email [bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)  
or 2. Text and phone Tim Featherstone 075 49 48 0321

**Emergency Number 075 49 48 0321 must be taken on the hill with each party** and should be used to advise the bus convener of any problems or significant changes of plan.

**Main map required:** OS 1:50 000 Sheet 41 Ben Nevis, Fort William & Glen Coe

**The fare will be £25** and, while cash can be taken in the bus, it would be preferred if you could pay by bank transfer IN ADVANCE of the outing. The day before is fine. Please pay to:  
PTARMIGAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (note name is not yet changed); 80-17-68; 00248765

For those without access to this facility, please post a cheque payable to the club, to Adrian Casey, 8 Succoth Place Edinburgh EH12 6BL.

**Given the significant rise in our costs, primarily the fee we pay to the coach operator, we must, regrettably, increase our fares and subscriptions for 2023. The subscription for 2023 is £30 for an individual, £50 for partners sharing the same address, £17.50 for those who are already members of Mountaineering Scotland, either individually or through another club, and £10 for non-walking members.**

**Members are reminded that the mountains may still be in full winter mode. Ice-axe and crampons must be carried if you're walking above the snow-line.**

## Route Options

**Munros** - There are a huge range of possibilities with various starting points.

**Beinn a Bheithir**, which offers two Munro summits: **Sgorr Dhonuill**, 1001m, NN040555 and **Sgorr Dhearg**, 1024m, NN056558. The bus will go west from an initial stop in Ballachulish to Kentallen, providing an excellent opportunity to make a west-to-east traverse.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/beinnabheithir.shtml>

**Sgor na h-Ulaidh**, 994m, NN111518 can be linked to the Corbett **Meall Ligiche**. Access from the lay-by at Achnacon, NN118565 with the possibility of walking to the Clachaig Inn at the end of the day.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/sgornaulaidh.shtml>

**Bidean nam Bian**, 1150m, NN143542; **Stob Coire Sgreamhach**, 1072m, NN154536 can both be accessed via the Lost Valley from Allt-na-reigh, NN172569 but nowhere very obvious to wait for the returning bus.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/bideannambian.shtml>

**Buchaille Etive Beag** offers two Munro summits: **Stob Dubh**, 958m, NN179535 and **Stob Coire Raineach**, 925m, NN191548. Access from the beehive cairn lay by at NN187563. Again, nowhere very obvious to wait for the returning bus. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/buachailleetivebeag.shtml>

**Buchaille Etive Mor** also offers two Munros: **Stob Dearg**, 1021m, NN223543 and **Stob na Boige**, 956m, NN190525. Access Altnafeadh, NN221563. It might be possible at the end of the day to walk along the WHW to the Kings House Hotel. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/buachailleetivemor.shtml>

**Aonach Eagach**: Not for the faint hearted but the whole Aonach Eagach ridge is probably too time-consuming for this outing. The Munro **Sgor nam Fiannaidh**, 967m, NN140583 can be climbed from Loch Achtriochtan or from the Pap of Glencoe col. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/aonacheagach.shtml>

From the ski centre, with the possibility of taking the chairlift part of the way up, two of the Black Mount Munros, **Meall a Bhuiridh** 1108 m NN250503 and **Creise** 1100m NN238506 could both be reached. Pick up would be at the road end but there is a café at the ski centre and the Kings House would be reachable.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/creise.shtml>

From the Bridge of Orchy Hotel, **Beinn Dorain** 1076m NN326378 and **Beinn an Dothaidh** 1002m NN332408 can both be reached. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/beinn-dorain.shtml>

From Dalrigh NN343292 with a short walk to Tyndrum at the end of the day, **Ben Dubhchraig** 978m [NN308255] and **Ben Oss** 1029m [NN287253] would be possible. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/ben-oss.shtml>

**Ben More** 1174m NN432244 and **Stobinian** 1165m NN434227 could both be done from Ben More Farm NN413258 with a walk back along the road to Crianlarich at the end of the day.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/ben-more.shtml>

## Corbetts

The possibilities include:

**Beinn a' Chrùlaiste**, 857m, NN246566 can be accessed from Altnafeadh ending the day at the Kings House Hotel or as a circuit from either. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/beinn-a-chrulaiste.shtml>

**Fraochaidh**, 879m, NN029517. Access from Ballachulish

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/fraochaidh.shtml>

**Beinn Odhar** 904m NN337338, **Beinn Chaorach** 818m NN358328 and **Cam Chreag** 884m NN358328 could be done from Tyndrum

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/corbetts/beinn-odhar>

## Grahams

The possibilities include:

**Sgorr na Ciche/The Pap of Glencoe**, 742m, NN125594. Access NN105590 from Glencoe Village.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fortwilliam/papofglencoe.shtml>

**Sgorr a' Choise**, 663m, NN084551; **Meall Mor**, 676m, NN106559. Access Ballachulish.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/fionas/sgorr-achoise>

## Low Level

A good walk starting from the A82 at the "beehive" cairn is round the base of Buchaille Etive Beag via the two passes, Lairig Gartain and Lairig Eilde then following the WHW to the Kings House hotel.

Various sections of the West Highland Way are possible.

***The Club's Code of Good Practice** notes that parties should comprise two, preferably three, people and those members must have a map of the area and compass and know how to use them. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried. The group should stick together and be alert for signs of anyone feeling unwell or getting into difficulties. For those members who have one it does no harm to carry a mobile phone, though it is important to understand that there is no guarantee of signal availability and this should never be relied upon.*

***Disclaimer:** The routes outlined above are merely descriptions of walks in the area; they do not represent invitations or recommendations by the Club or any of its Officers to members to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each club member to choose a route that is within their capability taking due account of the timings given and the weather conditions prevailing*

## WhatsApp Group

You are reminded that we have now set up a WhatsApp group to enable members to exchange plans for the day in advance which may take some pressure off the bus convener. The group currently has 17 members. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, please email [secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk) with your mobile number and you will be sent a link.

## What we did last month

"Four of us Cheryl, Tim, Colin and Douglas decided to do Hunt Hill from the bus terminus at Invermark. By the standards of the sometimes rather bland Angus Hills the route looked an interesting one and so it proved. We headed past the romantic ruin of Invermark Castle and along the track beside Loch Lee before turning south into the scenic glen of the Water of Unich.



**The Falls of Unich: Left & Invermark Castle: Above  
(Pictures by Douglas Tullis)**

This is a narrow and rocky glen overlooked to the south by the cliffs of Craig Maskeldie and to the north by Bruntwood Craig. It features two fine waterfalls, the Falls of Unich and the Falls of Damff, beside both of which we stopped for photography and, at least in the case of the former, refreshment. A “there and back” took us from the river to the summit of Hunt Hill (705m), a Graham, where we lunched in light snow. We were perhaps fortunate that the hard overnight frost had somewhat hardened up what would otherwise have been the high bog factor section of our day. Returning to the river we were pleased to find a brand new wooden footbridge just above the Falls of Damff which lead us to a track, not shown on the map, to the summit of Cairn Lick. From the summit, it was a short step to join our intended vehicle track which took us down the delightfully named Shank of Inchgrundle with a fine view to the north of the Carlochy corrie and lochan. Down to Inchgrundle farm where we crossed the burn on a bridge at an interesting angle after the floods and returned to the bus via Loch Lee. Ornithologically disappointing in an area where there is always a chance to see eagles and other raptors but otherwise a good day in an area that was new to me. Six hours walking about 18 k with some 838m of ascent – enough to build up a thirst to be slaked when we reached Edzell.” Douglas Tullis



**Misty view from Hunt Hill with a distant Loch Lee & The Corrie of Loch Carlochy. (Pictures by Colin Shepherd)**



## Alistair Haig gives his account of Mount Keen

A party of ten Ptarmigans, including Andrew and Justin on their first outing with the club, set out along the track up Glen Mark on a cold morning with Mount Keen shrouded by wintry clouds. Spotting a red squirrel and a kite from the bus on the way up Glen Esk had made for a great start to the day. A stop at the Queens Well was welcome before continuing higher. True to the Met Office forecast we were soon pushing our way into snow, which had started to lie. The path and rocks were not icy though and we made steady progress to the top. The summit rocks provided some shelter so we enjoyed a surprisingly comfortable lunch with the sun trying to push through. From here, five returned by the same route. Five of us decided to turn east across the snow-covered moor to Braid Cairn and the Hill of Gairney from where we would pick up a landrover track to loop back to our starting point. With no obvious path and limited visibility we had an opportunity for navigation practice. We headed a bit too far south but the accuracy of my compass bearings improved after some helpful tips from Andrew. A hare was spotted by those not fussing about compass bearings. Close to the Hill of Gairney a track awaited for our descent. By 4pm Mount Keen's summit was clear, views opened up towards of Loch Lee and we made it back in plenty of time for the bus, stopping for refreshments in the quaint town of Edzell. That's a good day out in my book.



**The Mount Keen Ptarmigan group at the Queens Well: (Picture by Justin Elliott)**

Finally, Richard Love gives his account of Mount Battock

Seven of us set off from Millden Lodge at 10.00 to climb the most easterly Corbett, Mount Battock. The weather during the day was much as forecast: cloud on the higher tops, occasional snow showers and a light breeze, so no difficulties on that (weather) front: furthermore the surface provided easy walking: mostly over-engineered 'motorways' for the grouse shooting. Pity about the lack of a summit view though. We all stayed together as one party (Elsa, Emma, Lynn, Lesley, Alec, Graham and me) and the biggest decision was how we would fill the remaining time, as we had summited just after 12.30 and had another five hours till the bus left Invermark.

We took the longer route from the summit, eventually heading north before swinging west round to Hill of Cammie and taking a series of other hill tracks down Glen Tennet to Tarfside, arriving here at 4.00. On the way we passed a very dicey painted rock, then spotted a very prominent conical structure on Rowan Hill above Tarfside. Properly known as the Maule Monument, this was built in 1866 by the first Baron Panmure to commemorate seven members of his family. After a brief stop at Tarfside for refreshment (by some) and purchase of duck eggs (by Elsa) we all set off along the four miles of road to Invermark. The other parties had all returned by the time we arrived at the bus (5.05) so Jim McLeod set off ahead of schedule and picked up the others en route to Edzell.

A pint at the local bar and one of the best fish suppers I've had (from the Tuck Inn) didn't quite count as 'painting the town red' in our convener Douglas's words but provided a very satisfying end to another good day for 18 members and three new recruits. Let's hope these numbers are maintained throughout the year.



**The descent from Mount Battock was abit dicey: (Picture by Graham Young)**