

Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

April 2026

The Meet on Sunday 5th April is to Luss & Arrochar

DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn & PC World. Short stop at Ballaoch, Luss & the bus will park for the day in Arrochar.

Bus convener: Alexandra Butler 07717298857

Bookings and cancellations: Email bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Main map required: OS 1:50 000 Sheet 56 Loch Lomond & Inveraray

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

Bus departure times - a reminder

We always aim for our buses to leave Waterloo Place promptly at 07:30 am on the day of an outing. It is difficult to predict the times at which the bus will arrive at other pick up points which will depend on traffic, any roadworks etc but the roads are usually very quiet at that time of day. We have a note of who is due to be joining the bus at Waterloo Place and the other pick up points. If anyone is missing, the bus will usually wait for two minutes at any pick up point but will not normally wait for any longer than that."

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

Route Options

Munros

The **Munros Beinn Narnain** (926m) [NN271066] and **Beinn Ime** (1011m) [NN255084] are the main Munros in the area <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/beinn-ime.shtml>
Ben Ime can also be combined with the **Corbett** Beinn Luibhean (858 m) [NN242079]

Corbetts

Ben Arthur/The Cobbler (884m) [NN259058]: A **Corbett** whose unusually shaped top is due to a major landslide after the last glaciation and provides an "interesting" little scramble to the summit.
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/the-cobbler.shtml>

Grahams

The Luss hills are a compact range of smooth grassy hills, including no fewer than eight **Grahams**. These, in combination with neighbouring hills, give a variety of interesting possibilities starting and finishing at Luss. The hills accessible from Luss include, on the south side of Glen Luss, **Creag an Leinibh (658m)** [NS 311919] and the neighbouring **Beinn Tharsuinn (655m)** and **Beinn Chaorach (713m)** plus **Beinn a' Mhanaich (689m)**[NS 269946].

On the north side of Glen Luss are **Cruach an t-Sidhein (684m)** [NS 275965]

Doune Hill (734m) [NS 290971] shares a ridge with **Beinn Eich (702m)** & offers a fine horseshoe round above Glen Mollachan from Luss. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/doune-hill.shtml>

Beinn Dubh (643m)[NS 336954] can be climbed from Luss on a fine horseshoe.

<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochlomond/beinn-dubh.shtml>

On the north side of Glen Douglas are two more **Grahams**, craggier than their southern neighbours: **Tulich Hill (632m)** [NN293006] and **Beinn Bhreac (681m)** [NN321000].

Lower level

Low-level possibilities include Glen Luss or heading south on the peninsula beyond Ardgartan (at the foot of Glen Croe). The Cowal Way & Three Lochs Way.

“Members and Guests sometimes ask whether there will definitely be a low level walk. The choice of walks is very much a matter for individuals and is very weather dependent. So, there can be no guarantee that will always be a low level walk. But, if you are interested in doing a low level walk or any of our suggested walks, please use our WhatsApp group to share your ideas. If you are not already in the WA group contact secretary@ptarmiganmc.co.uk”

The Club's Code of Good Practice (available at our website <https://ptarmiganmc.org.uk> under the Membership tab) lists the clothing and equipment to have on the hills. It is important to have warm clothing, good quality waterproofs and robust boots and to carry food, water, map, compass and a mobile phone. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried.

Disclaimer: We do not have walk leaders, our groups walk as equals with shared responsibility for navigation and safety. The routes suggested 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 walkers to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each walker to choose a route that is within their capability.

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. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, please email secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Highways Hillwalking Club

For many years we have had an informal association with the Highways Hillwalking Club in terms of which our members are welcome as guests on their outings and vice versa without restriction of the number of such outings that can be attended. The HHC operates a programme very similar to ours, also using MacLeod Coaches, but usually on the second Sunday of the month. The combined programme for both clubs can be found in the Meets section of our website and full details of the HHC including how to sign up for their outings are available at their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/highways3102/home> "

What we did last month

Start of the walk: Pic by Alex Williamson

No views, but a great day

It was never going to be a classic day, but much of the enjoyment is just getting out for a while. 18 Ptarmigans decided that it was a day to stay relatively low. We got off the bus just north of Dykehead at the old cemetery and aimed for the Airlie monument. The Airlie monument is a significant landmark which I read about prior to the walk. It made such an impression on me that I had forgotten what I had read by the time I got there. Much more interesting was the Scott Wilson monument which we visited prior to making the short climb up to the Airlie.



I became aware that we were down to 17 Ptarmigans by this stage with Ken having suffered equipment failure requiring tape repair to keep his boots together. Somehow, despite this mishap, he got ahead of us and was enjoying a quiet pint when we arrived at the Glen Clova hotel.

Before that however, we had a long walk on a good, if sometimes muddy track along the ridge between Glen Clova and Glen Prossen. The views should have been delightful, but were for another day.

The descent from the ridge into Glen Clova threw an unexpected complication with wind felled trees creating significant obstacles on the path. This probably resulted from winds a couple of years ago which decimated the area. For us it was a bit like the start of the eliminator in Gladiators. No rope climb, zip line or balance beam for us, and certainly no travelator, but we soon got out of it and made much easier progress on the road to Glen Clova.

The hotel was a lot more welcoming than it was 2 years ago and we populated the whole of the climbers bar. I detected a reluctance to depart, but fish and chips in Blairgowrie was calling so we had to call it a day. Another enjoyable day despite the weather. (Alex Williamson)



The Arlie Monument: Pictures by Alex Williamson



Ben Tirran group in the white room: Pictures by Michael Cumming



Carn of Barns group enjoying the view: Picture by Diahann Whitefield



Ptarmigan at play: Picture by Alex Williamson