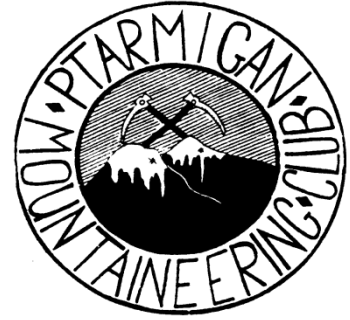


Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

August 2026

The Meet on Sunday 2nd August is to Newtonmore

DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn, Drum Brae, Forth Road Bridge, M90, A9 to Pitlochry (comfort stop), A889 to Laggan, arriving at Newtonmore at approx. 10.30. We intend to return directly along the A9, unless anyone, having climbed Geal Charn, needs picked up at Laggan Bridge. There will be a further pick-up at Dalwhinnie if requested.

The bus will leave Newtonmore at 17:30

Bus convener: Petra Zur Lage

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

Main map required: OS 1:50 000 sheets 35 Kingussie & the Monadhliath, 42 Loch Rannoch, 43 Braemar & Blair Atholl

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."

Route Options

Munros

A'Chailleach, 930m [681042]; Carn Sgulain, 920m [684058]; Carn Dearg, 945m [635024]

The starting point for these three Munros is in Glen Banchor where the narrow road changes from being public to private at the foot of the Allt a' Chaorainn. A'Chailleach and Carn Sgulain can be reached from here. The route to Carn Dearg continues up Glen Banchor for 1km and then turns up the track by the Allt Fionndrigh, or (depending on the state of rivers and streams) up to Coire nan Laogh and Loch Dubh. Another route to Carn Dearg is to get off the bus at Cluny Castle [NN647944] and follow the track north from there.

The complete traverse of all three hills should be attempted only by fast parties in good conditions.

Geal Charn, 926m [NN561988] can be climbed from Laggan Bridge via Glen Markie, leaving the path where it crosses the Markie burn.

There are numerous other Munros en route, including the Blair Atholl/Glen Tilt hills, the Munros east and west of Drumochter, and Meall Chuaich from Dalwhinnie.

Corbetts

There is only one Corbett near Newtonmore: Carn an Fhreiceadain, 878m [725071]. It can be climbed from Kingussie by way of the Allt Mor track, perhaps in combination with Craig Dubh, 786m [728036]. Please remember that you will have to return to Newtonmore.

Various other Corbetts are accessible from the A9 including Ben Vrackie, An Dun, Meall na Leitheach, The Sow of Atholl and The Fara.

Grahams

There are two Grahams accessible from Newtonmore:

Creag Liath, 745m [664008] can be approached from Glen Bancher and the Allt Fionndrigh track or by combining it with Carn Dearg in the Cluny Castle-Newtonmore traverse mentioned above.

Creag Dhubh, 756m [NN678973] can be climbed from the track that leaves the A86 at [NN664947]. The descent could be made to the River Calder, in the hope that the bridge at [NN677988] is intact, or via the complex NE ridge to Biallaid.

Through-Walks and Lower Level

For low-level walkers, the route from Cluny Castle through Glen Bancher offers many attractions. There are also numerous low-level walks around Newtonmore and Kingussie with a whole network of tracks and paths interlinking them.

“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> "

If anyone fancies writing a wee account of their walk on the up-and-coming meet, feel free to email secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk Or even a brief account with pictures on WhatsApp.

What we did last month

Our last meet was at the Linn of Dee in the Cairngorms National Park. There was a variety of walks undertaken at the destination & groups also got off the bus early at places such as Glenshee & Inverey.



Glas Maol: Pic by Jean Harper



Towards the end of the Carn Bhac Horseshoe: Pic by Justin Elliott

Skye weekend: 26th – 29th June 2026

It was a long drive (six hours) from the centre of Edinburgh to Carbost, in the knowledge that the weather forecast for the coming weekend was not all rosy – OK, it's Skye in July. Having picked up Tod and Coney, I approached the Queensferry Crossing to be met with an apocalyptic downpour and thunderstorm, which not only obscured virtually all vision of the bridge but lasted nearly half an hour. The rest of the journey was undramatic in comparison.

Once at Carbost, the three of us filled the afternoon before we could get into our rooms with a short trip down to Talisker Bay to have a look at the beach and surrounding scenery before we made a quick ascent of Leathad Beithe but found the return descent a little more complex. The rain almost held off till the end of our return to the car though.



Dun Caan Summit group: Pic by Colin Shepherd

On Saturday a group of seven (Douglas, Alex, Peter M-S, Jean, Lesley, Colin and myself) decided to make the best of a bad day by taking the ferry to Raasay, with the final target of Dun Caan. The ground was certainly boggy during the long walk in and we occasionally strayed from the 'path' but once we'd approached the foothills of DC the path was more well-defined and we had a very pleasant ascent to a windy summit, having left our rucksacks by the end of the loch below. Following a scenic lunch we

headed NW to pick up the road back to Inverarish and the return ferry.

Of course, we got caught in some heavy downpours and arrived at the local hotel, the old Raasay House, desperately in need of sustenance. We stripped off all boots and wet garments before entering and I had the best pot of tea I've had for a long time (beers and other beverages were also available) and it provided a welcome stopping point. Unfortunately we didn't have time to return to Raasay distillery to replenish Douglas's bottle of the eponymous liquor we'd mostly devoured the night before.

On Sunday, eschewing the highest Cuillin tops (which I'd already done) seven of us (Douglas, Lesley, Jean, Wendy, Christine, Katarina and I) decided to tackle Glamaig, the scree covered pointy hill above Sligachan. Not a particularly brilliant idea as it turned out. We again had a wet and boggy walk in, via Coire Sgairde. This included a difficult river crossing which five walked across with resultant wet feet for the rest of the day. After quite a hard climb up the track to the col to the SE of the summit, Lesley agreed not to attempt the summit, so the plan was for her to shelter in Wendy's bivvy tent and we'd pick her up on our return.



The Glamaig gang and break time: Pictures by Douglas Tullis & Wendy Farmer

However, only four of us (Christine, Wendy, Katarina and I) managed to reach the summit, having endured one step up/two steps back on the scree, plus strong winds and heavy showers. Douglas and Jean retreated and they and Lesley retraced their steps and the river crossing again. When we tried to take the direct ridge route off the summit, we soon realised this was impossible as we were literally being blown off our feet and I suffered a cut hand and knee for my efforts. We were forced to take a steeper but more sheltered descent of the NW slopes, where I found I was stumbling my way down, my legs being knackered by the earlier ascent. As we were separated but in sight of each other, we individually stopped to refuel and reconvened at the foot of the hill, where I dressed my bloody hand before picking up the main road back to Sligachan. We were pleased to see the other three arrive back at the car park soon after us and were able to compare experiences.



The summit of Glamaig & views out to sea: Pictures by Wendy Farmer & Katerina Gradeva

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On Monday, my car party drove round the coast past Bracadale to have a quick look at Dun Beag, a fairly well preserved broch, before driving a bit further SW towards the coast to walk to the tidal island of Oronsay, well worth a visit if you time and the tide is right.

On Sunday evening we all joined in the group dinner in the Old Inn next door to our bunkhouse and generally good food and service were enjoyed with all the right people thanked by Alex. It was unfortunate that those who had wanted to achieve harder summits on the Cuillin ridge were often stymied by the high winds and rain, so they will no doubt have to return some day. My thanks to Justin, Wendy and any others who helped with the booking and admin. Despite the weather, I'm sure we all enjoyed ourselves and met club members we'd possibly not seen before.

(Richard Love)

There were groups who still made it up the Cuillin Ridge in the bad weather. Special mention to Jo who made it up the Inn Pinn. Other groups also climbed Sgurr na Banachdaich & Bla Bheinn.



Jo & Sara on Sgurr Dub Mhor & Jo on the Inn Pinn: Pictures by Sara Knight



On the ascent & the summit of Bla Bheinn: Pictures by Katerina Gradeva



Sgurr Na Banachdich group: Pictures by Katerina Gradeva & Morbhen MacRath



Food & drinks in the Old Inn: Pictures by Wendy Farmer