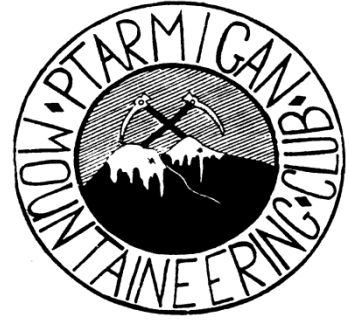


Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

June 2026

The Meet on Sunday 7th June is to Cruachan/Taynuilt

DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn and PC World, M9, Callander and Tyndrum, where we will have a brief stop. We should arrive at Taynuilt at about 10:30.

Bus convener: Petra zur Lage

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

Main map required: OS 1:50 000 Sheet 49 Oban & East Mull. Sheet 50, Glen Orchy & Loch Etive & sheet 51, Loch Tay & Glen Dochart for Crianlarich hills.

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

Ben Cruachan (1126m) [069304], **Stob Diamh** (998m) [094308]. Access Cruachan Power Station in the Pass of Brander. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/ben-cruachan.shtml>

Beinn Eunaich (989m) [135328], **Beinn a Chochuill** (980m) [110328]. Access from Drishaig at junction of A85 & B8077 [132283]. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/beinn-eunaich.shtml>

Ben Lui (1130m) [266263] and **Beinn a Chleibh** (916m) [250256]. Access: Dalrigh [344290] or track to Cononish from Tyndrum or from Glen Lochy car park [239278]. NB There is no bridge over the River Lochy and this route may be impossible if the river is in spate.
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/ben-lui.shtml>

Ben Oss 1029m [287253] and **Beinn Dubhcraig** 978m [307254]: access Dalrigh [344290]
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/ben-oss.shtml>

Ben Challum 1025m [387322]: access Kirkton Farm [359284]
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/ben-challum.shtml>

Ben More 1174m NN432244 and **Stob Binnien** 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>

Other possible Munros on the way up include **Cruach Ardrain** from Crianlarich. The Munros to the North of Glen Dochart, **Sgiath Chuil** (935m) and **Meall Ghlas** (960m) from the driveway to Auchessan [448275] would also be possible but lack any obvious waiting place for the bus home.

Corbetts

Beinn a Bhuidh (897m) [094283]. Access: Cruachan Power Station
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/beinn-a-bhuidh.shtml>

Beinn Chuirn access Dalrigh [344290]
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/beinn-chuirn.shtml#>

Beinn Odhar 904m NN337338, **Beinn Chaorach** 818m NN358328 and **Cam Chreag** 884m NN358328 could be done from Tyndrum & from Auchtertyre, WHW south [375346]
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/corbetts/beinn-odhar>

Beinn nam Fuaran 806m [361381] and **Beinn a Chaisteil** 886m [348364] from Auch Glen, WHW north
<https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/argyll/chaisteil-fuaran.shtml>

On the way up, there are the Lochearnhead Corbetts, Meall an t-Seallaidh and Creag MacRanaich. Also the Corbett Beinn nan Imirean from Crianlarich.

Grahams

The possibilities include:

Fiarach

Meall Odhar

Beinn na Sroine

Beinn Donachain

Low Level

Glen Nant and Glen Lonan: walk up Glen Nant to [014281] Tailor's Leap, where a bridge over the River Nant gives access to a track through the Caledonian Forest Reserve (a national nature reserve). Follow this track north-west to Lonan House and walk down Glen Lonan into Taynuilt.

Glen Lonan: Angus's Garden at [978288] is a woodland garden with a path round a lochan, developed in memory of the son of a local family killed on active service in Cyprus. Return to A85 and Taynuilt via Balindore.

Lairig Noe: [105320] viewpoint down to Loch Etive and up to the Cruachan ridge and Beinn a Chochuill. Access Drishaig then [137288] on B8077.

Glen Strae: access Drishaig for the B8077, then leave it at [145294] just before the bridge over the River Strae. This is a riverside walk up a peaceful and rarely visited glen. The monument on the east side of the entrance to the glen is a Celtic cross on top of a beautifully carved plinth erected to Duncan McLaren, Lord Provost of Edinburgh 1851-59. There are a number of shielings in the glen.

The south-eastern shore of Loch Etive has splendid views of Beinn Trilleachan and Ben Starav. Go through Taynuilt and cross the suspension bridge into Inverawe country park. Follow the way-marked nature trail from the smokery. It joins the narrow road from Bridge of Awe to the smokery very near a forestry track bearing north-east to Loch Etive side. Follow this track as far as you can in the time available, returning by the same route.

“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

I first visited Creag Meagaidh in 1986, the year when it was designated as a National Nature Reserve. Not an entirely successful day as my car broke down on the Loch Laggan Road and by the time the breakdown rescue people had reached me and fixed the problem, we only had time to walk up to the lochan in Coire Ardair. I've since been back on several occasions, and it has been wonderful to see the regeneration of woodland since then. Eight of us set off to do it on this occasion and, although one of our number decided to call it a day at the lochan, the remainder made it to the summit.



Taking a rest at Lochan a' Choire & heading up to the "window": Pictures by Douglas Tullis

At 1130 metres it stands well above its neighbouring hills and normally offers fantastic views. But with poor visibility above about the 1000 metre level, we couldn't see much at all. With this year's snowfall there was still an amazing amount of snow – we reckoned the drift at the top of the "window" must have been 20 feet deep or so - and we had to pick our way round extensive snow patches on the plateau to reach the cairn. We had some discussion about the best descent but with poor visibility and uncertainty as to the extent of the snow cover we returned the same way arriving with about 15 mins to spare before the bus – a great day enjoyed by all.

(Douglas Tullis).



Creag Meagaidh summit & on the descent: Pictures by Douglas Tullis

Cnap Cruinn

Having previously climbed all the realistically accessible Munros in the Fersit area I thought it might be worth attempting something new in the shape of the Graham/Fiona of Cnap Cruinn. With the forecast predicting extensive low cloud in the Central Highlands, I also hoped that this lower hill might just be clear of the mist, though I was largely disappointed on that front!

Five others (Coney, Elsa, Emma, Ewan and Mike) agreed to join me and we got off the bus at Inverlair to set off along the well made up track along Glen Lair. This part of the route was particularly pleasant in the dappled sunshine. The track skirted an area of extensive forestry plantation on one side, but there was also native woodland on the banks above the river and plenty of naturally regenerating birch trees in areas where the commercial forestry



had been clear felled. On the way we saw primroses and dog violets in flower and heard numerous Willow Warblers and several Cuckoos, or perhaps it was just one very mobile Cuckoo!

The summit of Cnap Cruinn: Picture by Colin Shepherd

After a few kilometres of very good going we left the track to cross an area of rough, boggy, tussocky ground before hitting the slopes of our hill and climbing up into the mist. We had our lunch stop just where the slope began to ease below the summit plateau and then proceeded on into the mist, which occasionally looked as though it might clear, but never quite got there. In the poor visibility it was very difficult to tell which of the

minor protuberances was the actual top but with the aid of various apps we we eventually convinced ourselves we were in the right place. The short cropped heath covering much of the plateau was a delight to walk on but unfortunately we didn't quite have time to make it all the way out to the subsidiary top of Beinn Chlianaig. A stretch of peat hag in the dip between the two summits provided the ideal nesting site for Golden Plover and we certainly heard plenty of their plaintive calls as we skirted round that area.

From there we made a diagonal traverse back across the hill slope, descending eventually back to the track. After crossing the River Lair we picked up the course of the abandoned tramway which provided an easy, though rather boggy way to Fersit where we arrived with 10 minutes to spare. Needless to say by this time all the surrounding summits were completely clear of cloud.

I think we all enjoyed the walk and it was great to see Elsa taking everything in her stride again after almost six months of enforced absence from the hills.

On the WhatsApp group I mentioned the connection of Inverlair House to the wartime incarceration of the Nazi Rudolf Hess and I attach a link to a site which gives some more information on this, as well as an intriguing link with the cult 1960s TV series ,The Prisoner'.

<https://www.secretscotland.org.uk/index.php/Secrets/InverlairLodge>

Colin Shepherd

Michael beside the abandoned tramway: Picture by Coney Mak



There were a few other groups of Ptarmigans doing different Munros.



Beinn a' Chlachair group: Pictures by Jo Duncan



Banter in full flow on the Easians & a honorary member up Chno Dearg: Pictures by Richard Waudby & Andrew Gallacher