

# Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



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

## Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

**The bus on 1st March is to Inversnaid. Fare £20.**

**Reminder: If you cancel your booking after 8am on the Friday before the meet, or if you fail to turn up, our Code of Good Practice expects you still to pay your fare (to the treasurer) unless the reasons for your cancellation or non-appearance were beyond your control.**

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 0730 and travel via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn, and PC World, M9, A84/873/81/821, Aberfoyle (short stop) and B829 to Inversnaid on Loch Lomond where it will park for the day at NN336088

Depart Inversnaid: 5.30pm

Bus Convener: Douglas Tullis

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

Emergency Number 075 49 48 0321 must be taken on the hill with each party.

Maps required: OS 1:50 000 sheet s 56 Loch Lomond & Inverary; 57 Stirling and The Trossachs.

Note to GPS users: all grid references are preceded by NN.

## New website!



We have a new-look website at the same old address, [www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk](http://www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk), which adapts to being viewed on a smartphone, tablet or computer. It aims to be clean, fast and simple, but only interactive if you use Facebook or Twitter. It is based on WordPress and will be easier to maintain. Any comments, criticisms or suggestions will be welcome at [webmaster@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## The Club's Code of Good Practice

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. (Continued o/leaf.)

**Winter Conditions:** If possessed, an ice axe and crampons should be carried and may be needed on frozen ground at any level. A careful judgement must be made on the prevailing conditions. Do not wait until you are on steep ground and/or above the snow line. Be prepared to moderate plans according to experience in the party. The bus convener should be able to advise individual parties on the day.

**Disclaimer:** The routes outlined below 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.

## Route options

### Munro

Ben Lomond (974m, 367028). From Inversnaid the best approach is to follow the West Highland Way southwards to Cailness Cottage and up beside the Cailness Burn to the Graham Cruinn a' Bheinn (633m, 365051) then on southerly bearings across the 450m col (364045) and then up the northern ridge of Ben Lomond. A possible alternative approach could be to start from Loch Dhu (432039) ending up at Inversnaid.

Dave Law suggests this route: As the bus is heading to Inversnaid, a great starting location is to get off at Tea Pot, just 1 mile after Loch Ard heading towards Loch Chon. There is a good trail through the woods onto farm track leading over Stronmacnair on to the farm at Comer. From there, there is a good lead onto the North East ridge leading up to the summit. From there, you should have time to head of the North West ridge, down onto the WHW and onto Inversnaid.

### Corbett

Beinn a Choin (769m, 355130) Go north from the Garrison of Inversnaid (348096). When this track ends after about 1km at a gate, go north east onto Stob an Fhainne (653m, 359111) and then ENE to the summit. The return to Garrison of Inversnaid can be made by the Snaid Burn. Walkhighlands contains a warning that the terrain involves "Very boggy, rough and largely pathless going on the hill".

### Grahams

Cruinn a' Bheinn (632m, 365051) – as described in relation to Ben Lomond above.

Ben Venue (729m, 474063) Start at the road to Ledard Farm (459023). Follow this road then track north then north east along the Ledard burn. The hill has many minor tops, all worth visiting on a good day for the excellent views. The north west top is the highest.

### Low Level

Go north along the West Highland Way through the Inversnaid Nature Reserve; after a boathouse turn uphill to a splendid viewpoint. As you climb you will pass through a series of habitats. The reserve is home to a herd of wild goats, probably abandoned at the time of the Clearances. Return to the WHW, where the truly intrepid can practise their bouldering skills to gain Rob Roy's cave. Go south from Inversnaid and follow signs to another viewpoint.

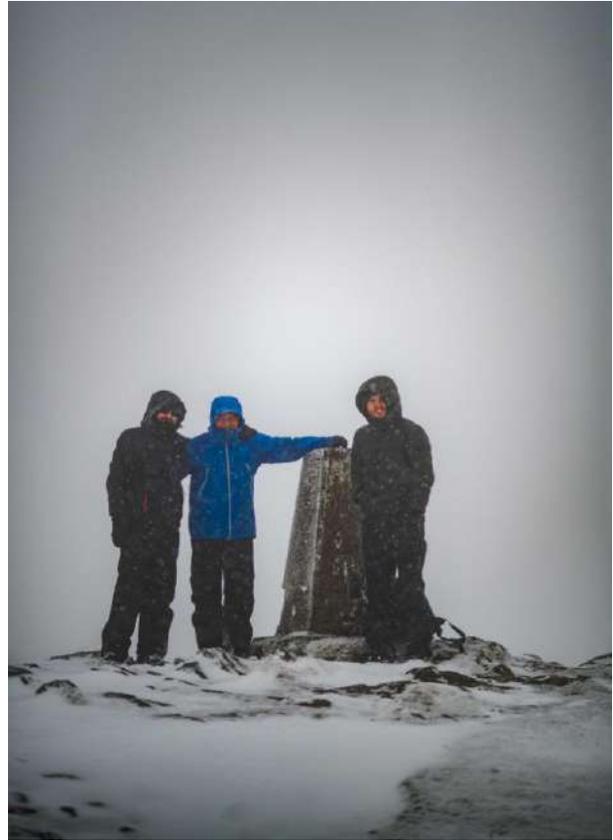
The David Marshall Lodge is just north of Aberfoyle. There are a number of waymarked paths from the lodge. Arguably the most interesting is the Highland Boundary Fault trail.

The Menteith Hills Start at the Braeval car park (542006) east of Aberfoyle walk north east along a forestry track signposted for Callander. The walk to Loch Venacher and back is possible.

Loch Ard. Start at the Milton Car Park (498011) south of Aberfoyle. Various routes are waymarked from this car park.

## What we did last month

Four guests got off the bus early for a snowy climb up Ben Ledi. Ken Nicholson, Mate Jani & his 2 guests. Here are some excellent, and rather cold looking pics from David Kulchar.



Richard Love: The day was not one for the reckless, so most of us opted for a low or lower level walk. My group (Adrian, Michael, Colin, Cherie, Alex, Benedetta and me) decided that a circuit of Glen Tarken could be just the sort of 'challenge' for a day when the snow fell continuously but not too deeply. We started from a marked track near Woodhouse, about 3 km from St Fillans, along with two other groups with slightly more ambitious targets of one or two Grahams. Because we were following a clear track, presumably constructed to service the many hydro-related structures en route, attention wandered from time to time (speaking for myself), until we were at least 2 km past the junction where we should have carried on towards the head of the glen. Instead we had veered off towards Glen Beich: no great problem, as we had oodles of spare time and needed the extra distance to fill it with (post-rationalisation, ahem!).

Although there were sufficient ups and downs to give us a decent work out, we had one more minor hiccup, when three of us discovered that we had temporarily lost the other four, who were out of sight behind us. I walked back about half a mile till I found them refuelling, so no need to worry. Our fault for forging ahead, of course. We arrived at St Fillans in time for a quick change, followed by the warmest of welcomes from the owner and staff of Achray Hotel, who went out of their way to squeeze all eighteen of us into their bar area for a variety of refreshments. I think they're onto a winner if they are the only catering establishment open at this time of year, so worth noting for the future.

Meanwhile there were 2 other groups heading for the Graham 'Creag Each' as Kevin explains. Tim, Kathy, Lynn & Dave powered on up hill, descending North East off the summit & around the Glen Tarken circuit. The rest headed back via a steep gully. Care had to be taken here as it was very steep. The large boulders were also very slippery with fresh snow. Back onto the landrover track at Glen Tarken, we took the track uphill, with a tricky river crossing over Glentarken Burn, and then the shorter circuit around back down to St Fillans & some light refreshments at the wonderful, friendly Achray Hotel.

*Bobb keeping an eye on snow conditions:*

*Creag Each Summit: Emma, Ewan, Bobb & Eva*



*Pics from left to right by Kevin Russell: A waterfall coming off Creag Each & Ptarmigans negotiating Glen Tarken Burn*