

Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

November 2021

Welcome back! The pandemic put paid to our normal activities for most of the last two years but now it's time to try a return to the hills on an experimental basis. So a bus has been booked for Sunday 7 November; destination Blair Atholl (details below).

Covid has made planning for the trip more complicated; so please read the following, highlighted in yellow, carefully:

On board the bus, we will keep things as safe as possible by:

- Allocating one window-seat per person, unless you are in a household bubble
- Asking you to wear a mask and use hand sanitiser when getting on and off the bus
- Requesting no eating, drinking or unnecessary waiting in the bus
- Entering the bus by one end and exiting by the other - tbc with Jim McLeod, the owner

In addition, if you could take a lateral flow test the day before the meet, that would be appreciated. Self-test kits are available free from NHS Scotland. If, for any reason, you find at the last minute that you can't come, please let Tim Featherstone know (details below) so that we don't spend time waiting for you.

Adrian Casey, Club Treasurer, says: The fare will be £20. For extra safety we would like to avoid cash payments as we restart. We would be most grateful if you could pay by bank transfer IN ADVANCE of this 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 me a cheque payable to the club, to Adrian Casey, 8 Succoth Place Edinburgh EH12 6BL.

If no more than 10 people book by 12.00 noon on the Saturday, we will cancel the bus and let you know. In the event of cancellation, any fare already paid will either be refunded or held against a future trip. Anyone who cancels at the last minute with suspected Covid symptoms will similarly get a refund.

DETAILS OF THE MEET

Date: 7 November 2021

Destination: Pitlochry and Blair Atholl via Dunkeld.

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Roseburn, Drum Brae, Forth Road Bridge, M90, Dunkeld, A9 north to Blair Atholl.

The bus will leave Blair Atholl at 17.30 prompt.

Bus convener: tbc

Bookings and cancellations: either 1. **(preferably)** email Tim Featherstone at bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk, letting him know where you'd like to be picked up.

or 2. Text and phone Tim at 075 49 48 0321

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

Maps required: OS 1:50 000 sheets 43 Braemar & Blair Atholl; 52 Pitlochry to Crieff.

Route Options

Munros

Carn Liath (975m) [NN 936 698] from Loch Moraig [907 673]

In good conditions fast parties might be able to take in **Braigh Coire Chruinn-bhalgain** (1070m) [NN 946 724] .

Corbetts

Ben Vrackie (841m) [NN 950 632] from Moulin, walking through to Blair Atholl via Killiecrankie

Beinn Mheadhonach (901m) [NN 880 758] from Glen Tilt.

Low Level

Glen Tilt: the traditional route goes from Blair Atholl to Old Bridge of Tilt, then by the present road to a point beyond Fenderbridge. At [884 672] turn off left to Kincaigie, then through woods and fields to join the River Tilt beyond Gilberts Bridge. How far you continue up Glen Tilt, and your return route, depend on time and conditions.

Glen Fender can be explored from Fenderbridge with the possibility of climbing Meall Dail Min (536m) [892 692], dropping down to a path at [885 694], passing Croftmore and dropping down to cross the River Tilt or follow the traditional route to Blair Atholl.

Another interesting walk takes the path on the east side of the Banvie burn to head up the Allt na Moine Bhain then east over Meall Reamhar (565m) [NN 863 704] (and perhaps Elrig (620m) [872 724]) to return by Glen Tilt.

If the bus goes on to Bruar, you can approach Glen Bruar by taking General Wade's road west for 1 km and the track north at [806 662], walking back to Old Blair and Blair Atholl through Baluain Wood, Glen Banvie Wood or Glen Banvie. Or you can visit the Falls of Bruar [819 668] and walk back through the woods.

Looking at the map there seem to be possibilities to the south of Blair Atholl, on the other side of the River Garry, taking in Tulach Hill (470m) [859 640], paths in the Tay Forest Park or Craig Fonvuick (SW of Killiecrankie) which used to be an RSPB Reserve.

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. 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.

If winter conditions have arrived: 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 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.

Annual General Meeting

As for last year, we will be having our AGM this year on Zoom, at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16 November. If you intend joining us, please email secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk and you will be sent the link to the Zoom account being used for the meeting.

The agenda is overleaf.

AGM agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of last year's AGM
4. Matters arising
5. Chairman's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Auditor
9. Election of office-bearers including Covid officer
10. Programme for 2022
11. AOCB

What we did on the last Meet

Outing to Peebles, 10 July 2021, by Douglas Tullis

Five Ptarmigans turned out for this walk – Jan Marsh, Colin Shepherd, Alex Williamson, Ron Lyall and me. The plan was to do the Dun Rig Horseshoe described by Walkhighlands as “A fantastic hill walk from Peebles, taking in the four peaks surrounding Glensax with extensive views in all directions”. Walkhighlands has it at 23.5km/14.5 miles with 941 metres of ascent and it is a decent hill walk by any standards.

We duly met up at Kingsmeadow car park in the centre of Peebles at 10:00 am – three having come by bus and two by car. The sun was shining at that point and this is the photo I took before we set off.



That was pretty much the last of the sun and more or less the end of my photography for the day but here is one of us on the way up the first hill of the day Birkscairn Hill (661m):



And here is another of us having a convivial lunch at the top of Dun Rig (743m) with the forecast rain not looking too far off:



At this point Ron (probably wisely) decided to leave us and headed off down Glen Sax to make an early return to Peebles but the remaining four carried on along the switchback taking us to Glenrath Hill (625m). With the benefit of hindsight we might have omitted the “there and back” to Stob Law (676m) but it is on the Walkhighlands route and is one of its four Donalds. At that point the rain came on and we got a good soaking for our pains. A slight deviation from the recommended path down from Hundleshope Heights (682) took us through the heather for a while and we descended to Glen Sax and back to Peebles passing the very fine Haystoun House with its private fishing loch.

Walkhighlands give a time of 6-8 hours for the full route but, with the addition of just over a kilometre up from the centre of Peebles to the normal starting point, the whole walk took us the full 8 hours with the result that we just missed the rather early last bus from Peebles to Edinburgh on a Saturday at 18:11 which was no problem as we had a couple of cars.

It was great to have a Ptarmigan day out – the first since Rowardennan in March 2020. Hopefully we can look forward to a resumption of the coach-based outings in the autumn.