

# Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



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

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2023

The Meet on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November is to Blair Atholl (High Tea)

### DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place, Haymarket, Roseburn, Drum Brae, Forth Road Bridge, M90, Dunkeld, A9 North to Blair Atholl.

**\*Please Note\* High Tea is booked for 5:30 at the Atholl Arms, Blair Atholl. See menu below**

**Bookings and cancellations:** Email [bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

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

**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

For those without access to this facility, please post a cheque payable to the club, to Adrian Casey, 8 Succoth Place Edinburgh EH12 6BL.

### 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 Kinraigie, 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** 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.*

***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.*

## **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](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk) with your mobile number and **you** will be sent a link.

## **"Annual General Meeting**

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 November at 7:30 pm at the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Club, 1 Broughton Road, Edinburgh EH7 4EW. Please come along if you can - we need at least 10 members present to have a quorum for the meeting. A formal agenda will be available before the meeting but the matters to be discussed will things like our programme for 2024 and the review of our subscriptions and bus fare.

[secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)."

As regards the 2024 programme this is normally decided on by the committee and we can discuss on the 28th. A number of members have suggested a May/June bunkhouse weekend on

Rum: <https://www.rumbunkhouse.com/hostel>

## **What we did last month**

### **The Fara**

Four of us (Emily, myself and two newbies, Peter and Jo) decided to tackle The Fara from NE to SW: I know, against the prevailing wind. We didn't fancy the long walk in before hitting the slopes, so started from the Laggan road (kindly dropped off by Jim, who then returned to the A9). After a scramble over a high locked gate, we followed the forest track through the trees until it petered out into a clear path to another accessible gate at the forest edge, by which time considerable height had been gained with minimal effort (it says here). Heading diagonally up the hill my chosen line nearly overshot the summit, so we did a little backtracking and found welcome shelter in the lee of the massive cairn, presumably built to give the hill sufficient extra height to be classed as a Munro. Failed on that front, I'm sorry to say.

After a short coffee stop and the ascent of the 'other' top, in case it was higher, we pressed on into the wind, which wasn't strong enough to cause us problems. En route, having heard a 'roaring' earlier, we disturbed a large group of young stags and hinds about halfway along the ridge. Although we got strung out a bit (blame me for that) we all regrouped at the last top (Meall Cruaidh) before descending the roughish but gentle slopes to the forest edge above Ben Alder Lodge, arriving for a late lunch about 2.15. Returning to Dalwhinnie with the by now lighter SW wind behind us, it was admittedly a bit of a route march on the hard surface and my feet were certainly 'burning' by the time we got to the Apiary at 4.30, just before they closed. We had time for a quick drink and cake (great selection of both) before wandering back to The Deestalker to find the others had just arrived to take us on to Pitlochry for an extended break. This honeypot was hoaching with coaches but there was no queue at the chippie.

Everyone had a good day and kept up a good pace, so I hope that we have gained two keen new recruits.

Richard Love



**Loch Ericht & the Ben Alder Range: Pic by Emily Russell**

Meanwhile Douglas Tullis writes:

There were 11 of us left on the bus when it reached the car park at Glen Banchor. Lesley and Coney went off to do the "Fiona" Craig Liath. Nine of us - Wendy, Katerina, Ewan, Emma, Tim, Ronnie, Norman, Justin and I set off to do the Munros A' Chailleach and Carn Sgulain, the initial plan being to do them in that order. The day was fair but windy with occasional showers but there must have been recent heavy rain and, when we came to the fording point over the Allt A' Chaorainn, there was considerably more water in the river than we had been expecting.



**Ptarmigans at the Allt A' Chaorainn: Picture by Douglas Tullis**

Unsurprisingly, no one showed any enthusiasm for taking off the boots and socks that early in the day. No problem however, as the OS map clearly showed a FB just under a kilometre upstream. We got there only to find that there had indeed once been such a footbridge of which only the abutment remained, and it didn't look as though there had been a crossable bridge there for decades. A change of plan was called

for and we decided to splash our way through the high bog factor moorland to approach Carn Sgulain via Am Bodach before going on to A' Chailleach where the sun obligingly came out for us. We set off down the track up which we had intended to ascend and passed the Red Bothy to reach the river again to walk downstream hoping that the lower footbridge shown on the OS map would still be there. Better luck this time and a relatively new wooden footbridge was indeed in place enabling us to reach the track down to the car park and thence to the bus waiting at Newtonmore. The hope had been to arrive at Newtonmore in time for a quick refreshment before the bus departed but we didn't quite have time for that, unlike Lesley & Coney who had got there before us. The pint of Orkney Corncrake Ale at the Old Mill at Pitlochry was worth waiting for. (Douglas Tullis)



*Ptarmiqans on the summit of A' Chailleach: Picture by Douglas Tullis*

*High Tea Menu at The Atholl Arms Hotel*

*Freshly Battered Haddock served with Mushy Peas and Chips  
Homemade Steak and Ale Pie served with New Potatoes and  
Vegetables*

*Deep Fried Chicken Goujons served with Homemade coleslaw and  
chips*

*Mixed Chefs Meat salad served with New Potatoes or Chips  
Homemade Macaroni Cheese served with Chips*

*oooOooo*

*Selection of Cakes and Scones  
Bread and Butter*

*oooOooo*

*Tea or Coffee*

*£16.95 per person*