

# Ptarmigan Mountaineering Club



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

## Monthly Newsletter

October 2019

**The bus on 6 October is to Ben Lawers via Callander. Fare £20.**

**REMINDER: if you cancel your booking after 8 am 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 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Roseburn, PC World, M9, A84 via Callander (short stop), Lochearnhead, Killin, the north side of Loch Tay to the minor road turn-off at Edramucky and the car park on the site of the old NTS Visitor Centre at NN 608 377 where the bus will park for the day. We have contacted the Ben Lawers Hotel and been assured that we can use their car park to set down and collect anyone who wants to use the path up the Lawers Burn. The bus can also park there if necessary.

**The bus will leave at 17.30 prompt.**

**Bus convener:** Adrian Casey

**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.**

**Main map required: OS 1:50 000 sheet 51 Loch Tay. All grid references are preceded by NN.**

## 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.

**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

### Munros

**Ben Lawers** (1214m, 635 414) and **Beinn Ghlas** (1103m, 625 404) can be climbed from the car park.

**Meall Corranaich** (1069m, 615 410) and **Meall a' Choire Leith** (926m, 612 439) can be reached from the cairn at the north end of Lochan na Lairige.

**Meall Greigh** (1001m, 674 438) and/or **Meall Garbh** (1118m, 644 436) can be climbed from the Lawers Burn path. A safe descent to the Lawers Burn may be made from the col between the two mountains; or, from the summit of Meall Garbh, you can continue (with a scramble) over **An Stuc** (1118m, 639 431) and onto Ben Lawers which may then be descended safely via its NE ridge to the Lawers Burn (or fast parties can complete the full traverse).

**Meall nan Tarmachan** (1043m, 585 390) and the Tarmachan ridge are accessible from the dam at 601 392. Head E up steep slopes to Meall nan Tarmachan before going over Beinn nan Eachan (995m, 568 384) and Creag na Caillich (916m, 563 378) and returning to the car park or descending to Killin.

**Meall Ghaordaidh** (1039m, 514 397) in Glen Lochay can be climbed from the bridge over the Allt Dhuim Croisk near Duncroisk Cottage after a 4.4km road walk from a drop-off at the Glen Lochay Hotel.

### Corbetts

**Beinn nan Oighreag** (909m, 541 412) may be possible by walking up Glen Lochay from the Glen Lochay Hotel to find the path at 538 353 leading to shielings. Ascend the straightforward S ridge to the summit and then return via the same route to Killin.

**Meall nam Maigheach** (779m, 585 436) is accessible from the roadside hut at 582 417.

Other Corbetts on the way to Ben Lawers are **Beinn Each** (813m, 601 158); **Ben Ledi** (879m, 562 097) and **Benvane** (821m, 535 137). Also **Creag Mac Ranaich** (809m, 545 255) and/or **Meall an t-Seallaidh** (852m, 542 234) can be climbed from Glen Ogle Cottages (557 283) or in a round from Kingshouse. The ground between these hills is an interesting mix of bog and crags, best avoided in poor weather.

### Grahams

**Creag Gharbh** (637m, 632 327) can be approached from Killin via Lochan Breaclaich.

East of Glen Ogle, **Meall Buidhe** (719m, 576 275) could also be climbed, although the direct route is very short.

### Low Level

There are limited options for low-level walking from this destination. The best would be to walk up the Lawers Burn to Lochan nan Cat in the fine surroundings of Coire nan Cat.

There are a number of interesting walks around Killin. Walks on either bank of Loch Tay are possible as well as the walk from Killin along the Rob Roy Way, up through the woods o' Dochart to Lochan Breaclaich at 619 313 (with the option of continuing on to Creag Gharbh).

Sròn a' Clachain (521m, 558 328) is a demanding little hill behind Killin with splendid views down Loch Tay, reached by a steep, well-marked path out of the Breadalbane Park (gates next to Shutters restaurant). There is an interesting descent via an old peat road at 549 332 into Glen Lochay. To descend into Glen Dochart go due west from Sron a Clachain to the Auchlyne East burn (possibly taking in Meall Clachach, 603m and Mid Hill, 559m). Join a track at 514 312 going west to a track junction at 500 307, then drop down another track south-east to Auchlyne 513 296. A 6km walk along the quiet, gated road beside the River Dochart takes you back to Killin.

The short walk round the head of Loch Tay from the public car park at the end of Station Road is recommended in bad weather as it may still give some excellent views. It can be followed by the track through the village to join the dismantled railway line, which continues to Lix Toll then through Glen Ogle and across the well-preserved railway viaduct to Lochearnhead.

Finally, the track from the south end of Loch Lubnaig to either Strathyre or Kingshouse can give a pleasant, undemanding walk.

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## What we did last month

Thanks to Dennis for this summary of a very good day.

"Ptarmigan MC has always had an ambivalent attitude towards the English Lake District: maybe it's because there are no real ptarmigans there to croak their welcome as we approach the tops. We've had some great days there in the past but also one or two financial disasters.

"So it was no real surprise that the September bus was far from full, but stay-at-homes missed a great day out, with impeccable time-keeping from bus and members. Adrian and Carol got off at Scales to do a circuit of Blencathra, side-stepping Sharp Edge on the way, and reached the pub at Threlkeld in time to celebrate with a late Sunday lunch.

"Everyone else carried on to the terminus at Braithwaite. The forecast for the day was mixed and we were greeted with a downpour as we disembarked. But that was about as bad as it got, except for a badly timed hail shower as the main party descended the narrowest and steepest part of the ridge. Sunshine and shadows chased their way across the hillsides and wisps of mist on the tops opened and closed some splendid views. By Lake District standards, not a bad result.



*Panorama of Skiddaw and Braithwaite from the lower slopes of Grisedale Pike (photo by Christine)*

"Everyone did a round of Coledale, more or less. Dave and Tim departed at speed and visited the outer fringes. The rest of the group all went as far as Coledale Hause before splitting. The fast party of Douglas, Richard, Cheryl, Colin and Lesley decided to carry on as far as Grasmoor while the others, looking at their watches and thinking of foaming tankards of ale, opted to complete the short circuit over Grisedale Pike.

"Back at the road end we learned that we had been walking around Force Crag mine, the last working mineral mine in England, now a scheduled monument (and still an active source of water pollution).\* Most people were back with plenty of time to enjoy the pub(s) of Braithwaite and later at Biggar – a new stop-off for the club – we had the choice of yet more pubs or a chippie offering jumbo-size portions."

\*Douglas was curious enough to check what came out of the mine: the answer was all sorts of things including lead,

silver, barytes and zinc ores. It's now owned by the National Trust.



*Cheryl ascending Grasmoor*  
(photos by Douglas)

*Lesley, Richard, Colin and Cheryl on misty Grasmoor*

## Annual General Meeting

The Club's AGM will be held on Tuesday 5th November at 7.30pm in The Navy Club, Broughton Street, Edinburgh, with drinks available from the bar from 7 pm. This is your chance to have your say on how the Club is run and to discuss the programme for next year.

The draft programme is as follows (but nothing's set in stone):

January 2020	No meet	August	Glen Muick
February	St Fillans via Lochearnhead	September	Kinlochleven
March	Inversnaid	October	Linn of Dee
April	Taynuilt	November	Luss/Arrochar (High Tea at Balloch)
May	Loch Arkaig	December	Lowther Hills/Wanlochhead
June	Coire Cas	Weekend away	To be discussed
July	Glen Creran		

If you have any comments or alternative suggestions, please contact Christine at [secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Wanted: new Secretary and Webmaster

Christine Thompson is stepping down as Honorary Secretary at the AGM and we urgently need a replacement. The job involves general correspondence and communication, mainly by email and mainly with Ptarmigan members and guests; setting up and minuting the occasional committee meeting and the AGM; arranging the annual high tea; and producing the monthly newsletter. Could you take over? The job could be split and shared with another member.

The current Webmaster, John Townshend, would also like to step down. Moves are afoot to devise a website that is easier to update. Once that has been achieved, John will be looking for someone to take over from him: could this be you? It would involve updating the website monthly and annually, liaising with our domain and e-mail host "Easyspace" and looking at analysis of website usage. John started with no expertise in websites, so rookies are welcome - but IT-savvy folk are even more so!

For more information about these posts, please contact Christine at [secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk) or John (whose email address is in your membership card).