

Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

September 2023

The Meet on Sunday 1st October is to Newtonmore

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, A9 to Pitlochry (comfort stop), A889 to Laggan, arriving at Newtonmore at approx. 10.30. We intend to return directly along the A9, unless anyone, having climbed Geal Charn, needs picked up at Laggan Bridge. There will be a further pick-up at Dalwhinnie if requested.

The bus will leave Newtonmore at 17.00

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

Main map required: OS 1:50 000 sheets 35 Kingussie & the Monadhliath, 42 Loch Rannoch, 43 Braemar & Blair Atholl

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

A'Chailleach, 930m [681042]; Carn Sgulain, 920m [684058]; Carn Dearg, 945m [635024]

The starting point for these three Munros is in Glen Banchor where the narrow road changes from being public to private at the foot of the Allt a' Chaorainn. A'Chailleach and Carn Sgulain can be reached from here. The route to Carn Dearg continues up Glen Banchor for 1km and then turns up the track by the Allt Fionndrigh, or (depending on the state of rivers and streams) up to Coire nan Laogh and Loch Dubh. Another route to Carn Dearg is to get off the bus at Cluny Castle [NN647944] and follow the track north from there.

The complete traverse of all three hills should be attempted only by fast parties in good conditions.

Geal Charn, 926m [NN561988] can be climbed from Laggan Bridge via Glen Markie, leaving the path where it crosses the Markie burn.

There are numerous other Munros en route, including the Blair Atholl/Glen Tilt hills, the Munros east and west of Drumochter, and Meall Chuaich from Dalwhinnie.

Corbetts

There is only one Corbett near Newtonmore: Carn an Fhreiceadain, 878m [725071]. It can be climbed from Kingussie by way of the Allt Mor track, perhaps in combination with Craig Dubh, 786m [728036]. Please remember that you will have to return to Newtonmore.

Various other Corbetts are accessible from the A9 including Ben Vrackie, An Dun, Meall na Leitreach, The Sow of Atholl and The Fara.

Grahams

There are two Grahams accessible from Newtonmore:

Creag Liath, 745m [664008] can be approached from Glen Banchor and the Allt Fionndrigh track or by combining it with Carn Dearg in the Cluny Castle-Newtonmore traverse mentioned above.

Creag Dhubh, 756m [NN678973] can be climbed from the track that leaves the A86 at [NN664947]. The descent could be made to the River Calder, in the hope that the bridge at [NN677988] is intact, or via the complex NE ridge to Biallaid.

Through-Walks and Lower Level

For low-level walkers, the route from Cluny Castle through Glen Banchor offers many attractions. There are also numerous low-level walks around Newtonmore and Kingussie with a whole network of tracks and paths interlinking them.

***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.*

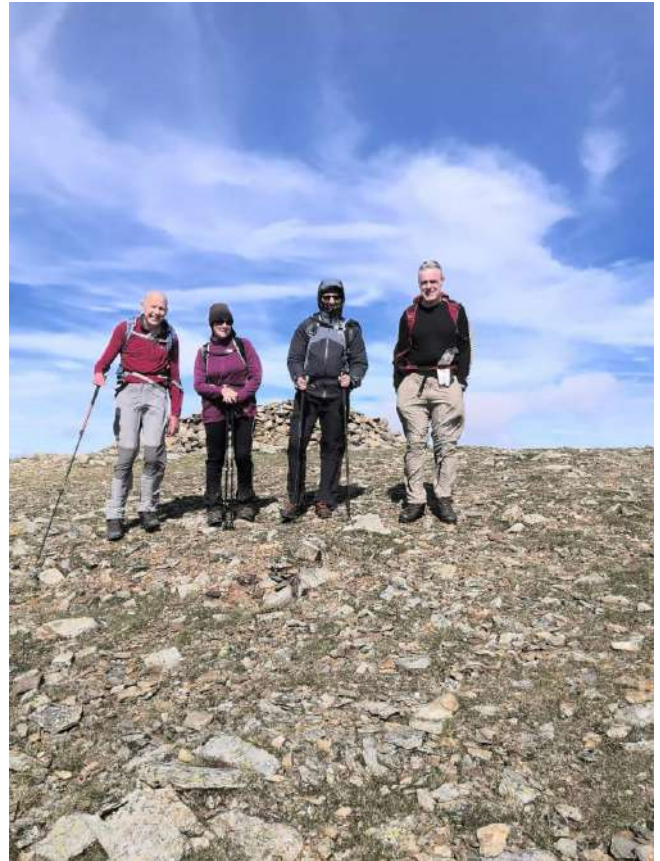
WhatsApp Group

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 with your mobile number and **you** will be sent a link.

What we did last month

Tim Featherstone writes:

Five of us (Lynn, Agnes, Norman, Matt and myself) decided on doing a variant of the Coledale horseshoe, taking in Grasmoor. A 5pm departure gave us just 6 hours to complete the route, so we set off at a brisk pace along the ridge on the north side of Coledale Beck towards Grisedale Pike. Walking conditions were near perfect – a fairly gentle breeze, warm but not too hot and good visibility. On reaching Grisedale Pike we had a 10 minute break before continuing on to Hopegill Head. Then it was down to Coledale Hause and a lunch break beside Liza Beck. After lunch it was onwards and upwards to Grasmoor. The views from the summit were excellent – Buttermere immediately below us to the south and most of the main Lake District hills spread out around us. We retraced our steps to descend Grasmoor and then on to Crag Hill and Sail on the south side of Coledale Beck. A little further on we had the choice of carrying on to Causey Pike (which would give a 3 km road walk back to the bus) or a more direct cross country route to Braithwaite taking in Outerside and Barrow. We decided on the latter and arrived back in the village at 4:45pm – just in time for a swift pint!



The Grassmoor group: Pictures by Agnes Kupcsik

Meanwhile, the other group took in Grisdale Pike as Colin Shepherd writes:

Superb weather in the Lake District on Sunday for one of the Club's rare forays south of the border. Made the steep ascent of Grisedale Pike from Braithwaite and walked on to Coledale Hause. Opted not to climb Grassmoor but made a leisurely descent back along Coledale. Finished with a refreshing pint in The Coledale Inn. Others were more ambitious!

Route towards the summit & steep section of ridge near the summit: Pictures by Colin Shepherd.



Group on the summit: Picture by Colin Shepherd

