



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2003

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I hope you enjoyed this year's glorious summer, and have returned from holiday refreshed with renewed enthusiasm for the rest of our walking season. However, the last few days have seen a change of weather with a hint of autumn chill in the air and some much-needed rain that farmers and gardeners among us will certainly appreciate after the long dry spell.

Hikes were well attended this year with an average of around thirty walkers per outing. Perhaps the comments on outings in this newsletter will encourage you to join us for some of this season's four remaining walks. The Committee are finalizing social and walking events for winter and welcome suggestions.

WEEK'S HIKE 2003

This year's Week's Hike saw us visit the Borders and *Bonnie Gallowa'*, where although the hills may not be as high as further north, the countryside is still fairly rugged, with plenty of interesting walks and climbs. We spent the first five nights at Newton Stewart, allowing us to explore the Corbetts of Cairnmore of Carsphairn (2614 feet), Corserine (2669 feet), which forms part of the Rhinns of Kells, Shalloch on Minnoch (2543 feet), and The Merrick (2764 feet), near beautiful Loch Trool.



Typical Summit on the Week's Hike: Hart Fell?

The remaining three nights were spent at Broadmeadows, the SYHA's first hostel, opened in 1931, and some say not a lot has changed in this

charming cottage - but it does have showers. It was very cosy sitting around the wood stove during the evenings watching our wet clothing dry - the lounge-cum-sitting-room was also our drying room, but there was a pulley in the kitchen, too. During the second half of the week, we explored the green rolling hills around the Moffat and Yarrow valleys, visiting Hart Fell (2651 feet) (very briefly as the mist was down and rain lashed us all day), White Coomb (2693 feet) (near the Grey Mare's Tail) and Broad Law (2756 feet). It would be fair to say the weather was not kind to us, as we had rain at some point on every walk, but the group was not disheartened, and we enjoyed an excellent meal in the Selkirk Hotel on Saturday evening, before exploring the Eildon Hills above Melrose and driving home to Aberdeen on Sunday.

RECENT SUNDAY WALKS

13 April: Tombae to Bridge of Muick

We had 32 walkers on the bus, and the weather was dry but breezy when we started our hike. Some opted to walk over to Shieling of Glentanar and then climb Cairn Leuchan from the south, while others chose the more direct route via Lach na Gualainn. It remained dry all day but there was a very cold wind on high ground around the summits. Refreshments were taken in Ballater. Graham

27 April: Edinvillie - Dufftown

This outing was perhaps most memorable for the fact that the toilets at Dufftown were found to be locked. On the way to Ben Rinnes, it was noticed that occasional fields were covered with straw over black polythene. While we were stopped at the Craiggellachie toilets, Margaret Leslie investigated one of these fields, and confirmed that there were carrots underneath. Towards the end of the walk, looking back at Ben Rinnes from the area of Muckle Conval, it could be seen that a flail had been used, presumably preparatory to muir-burn, and some wag had flailed the letters NZ onto the hill-side. Kris

11 May: Inverey Circular

This cold day brightened up eventually with attractive views of a snowy Lochnagar from the ridge. Vi lost her favourite bonnet! Sally

25 May: Findochty to Portsoy



Bow Fiddle Rock near Portknockie

This was a fine dry day with some sun. There was a good turnout despite the stalwarts of the Club being on the Week's Hike. The tide was out, so we were able to enjoy the beaches at Findochty, Cullen and Sandend. There were also interesting rocks, cliffs, a well kept pet cemetery at Cullen, and many different wild flowers in bloom. The bus was parked at Portsoy, where we had tea, and there was a handy pub. Heather

[An acquaintance was fond of telling me that *real men* come from Cullen - but then I saw the twee pet cemetery... Ed.]

8 June: Linn o Dee Circular



Lunch break



Jim views Beinn Mheadhoin



Carn Crom stile after Derry Cairngorm