



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2004

### CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Once more at the start of a new walking season, we hope the program of outings agreed by the AGM will prove interesting and challenging. We have maintained a high level of turnout with around 25 attending the three winter walks and subsequent early walks of this season. I hope this trend continues for the rest of the year, but we are always on the lookout for new members. Our program is well advertised in local hillwalking shops and the city tourist office, and we hope to advertise in the press via the *What's On* page. Members can also play a part by bringing along a friend or encouraging anyone interested in joining us for this healthy outdoor experience. Remember: we rely on new members to ensure the continuation of our Club and to keep down bus fares. Having established a good working relationship with Gordon's Travel, we have renewed our contract. Can I remind you to book early for outings and, likewise, if you cannot attend, please cancel at the earliest to allow any waiting member to take up the seat?

### AGM

Around fifteen members attended the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 3 February and elected the following.

President: ..... Frank Kelly  
Vice-President: ..... Jim Henderson  
Secretary: ..... Heather Eddie  
Treasurer: ..... Sally Henderson  
Booking Secretary: ..... Alex Joiner  
Committee Members: ... Colin Chapman, David Garwood, Lizetta Garwood, Kris Howard, Bill Marr,  
Graham Sangster, Vi Walker, Bob Will  
  
Auditors: ..... Marjory McLeod, Rosemary Kelly

The meeting followed the set agenda and heard Club Officials' reports on last year's activities. Club accounts remain healthy due to increased membership fees agreed at the previous AGM and increased attendances on bus outings, no doubt influenced by excellent weather last summer. Bus prices would likely continue increasing but it was not necessary at this stage to alter either membership fees or the maximum fare of £12 per outing. It was suggested the Club consider a Season Ticket charge, but a subsequent committee meeting agreed this would need much further thought. Other suggestions for attracting new members were taken on board for future consideration.

Donations of £50 were agreed for Braemar Mountain Rescue Association and Mountain Rescue Association of Scotland. Our continued affiliations to North East Mountain Trust and Ramblers' Association were approved, the latter enabling us to avail ourselves of Public Liability Insurance as previously. A question arose regarding Charitable Status for the Club, and this matter is being pursued to establish if benefit can be gained.

### DISCOUNTS

Discounts are available at the following shops on production of a signed 2004 membership card, which you receive on payment of your annual membership fee. For those who have yet to renew membership, a form is enclosed to complete and send to Treasurer Sally Henderson at South Loirston, Nigg, Aberdeen AB12 3LJ along with a £10 cheque payable to Aberdeen Telephones Hillwalking Club. Your membership card will then be sent to you.

Blacks, George Street .....	10%.
Nevisport, 186 George Street .....	10% on selected lines.
Graham Tiso, 26 Netherkirkgate .....	discount on club sales nights only, when up to 25% discount is available on selected lines.
Craigdon Sports, 5 St. Andrews Street .....	20%.
Millets, Union Street (on former site of Famous Army Stores) .	10%.
Hilltrek, Aboyne .....	10%.

**Stop Press:** The next Tiso's discount night will be on Wednesday 5 May from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Please take your signed membership card to qualify for discounts.

#### Claik Night

Claik Night XI was held on Tuesday 6 April at the Health Board Social Club, King Street when 28 members attended this informal evening for a chat with stovies and tea or coffee. The claiquin was plenty, the banter was good and the singing to accompany Mhari Shand on the squeezebox had to be heard to be believed. Graham Sangster compiled an interesting photographic quiz asking members to identify various mountains, landmarks, lochs and castles. Kris Howard only just won on a tiebreak to prevent Bill Marr winning for the third successive year. Who will be brave enough to challenge these two stalwarts of our Club quiz scene? Come along to our next Claik Night and try your luck.



Jim in full claik with Sally and Vi

A good night was had by all. Once more, thanks go to Vi for organizing a most popular event.

#### Week's Hike

Eleven members are booked into Glencoe Youth Hostel for eight nights from 22 May to 30 May, and a program of outings covering Glen Etive to Ardgour is in preparation. A meeting of participants will be held on Wednesday 5 May to discuss the program and finalize travel arrangements.

#### Hatch, Match & Dispatch

Congratulations go to Frank and Rosemary Kelly, now proud grandparents following the birth on 8 March of granddaughter Neave, a beautiful first baby for Austin and Debby Kelly. Grandad is already looking for a pair of very, very small hiking boots!!



Congratulations go to newlyweds Pat and Archie who honeymooned in Bali.

One morning in February, Paddy the bus driver collapsed and died while making breakfast. He was buried at Aberlour with a toy bus glued to his

coffin lid from some of the children he and his wife fostered. A man with a gruff and taciturn exterior but with a heart of gold, his tea-making skills could become legendary.

#### Sponsored Charity Walk

Club President Frank Kelly intends to walk the length of St. Cuthbert's Way towards the end of June to raise funds for the Anchor Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. As you may be aware, his wife Rosemary attended this unit for radiotherapy and chemotherapy last year for a course of treatment. The unit brings together experts and specialist nursing support to co-ordinate care of patients with all forms of cancer, leukaemia and benign blood disorders such as haemophilia. Monies raised through *Friends of Anchor*, a registered charity, are used to purchase advanced equipment for improved diagnosis, treatment and care of patients.

The 100-kilometre (62-mile) long St. Cuthbert's Way starts at Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders, includes the Eildon Hills, the River Tweed, Deer Street (Roman road), the Cheviot Hills, Northumberland Fell Sandstone Moors and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, and ends on Holy Island off the Northumberland coast.

If you wish to support Frank in this worthwhile venture, please add your name to sponsor forms circulating on our buses, or phone him at 314377.

#### Friends of Bob Scott's Bothy

These are a group of people come together to rebuild the famous bothy that burnt down in early December. Situated at Luibeg in Glen Derry at the gateways to the Lairig Ghru and Lairig Laoigh, this open bothy has for years sheltered numerous mountaineers, hillwalkers, birdwatchers, Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates, and such. Bob Scott, the last gamekeeper at Luibeg Cottage and a considerable character, first made one of his outhouses available as a basic shelter for climbers and hillwalkers in the mid-fifties, and the bothy commemorates his legendary hospitality. Friends of Scottie's would be grateful for any contribution to the project:

The Friends of Bob Scott's,  
C/O Alan Fraser,  
MCI Electronics Ltd,  
Wellheads,  
Dyce,  
Aberdeen AB21 7GA.

Phone 772211

#### Recent Sunday Walks

14th September: Tarfside to Aboyne.



Alan, Janet, Colin, Linda, Frank, Jim, Bill and Bob at the Boat Inn after the Fungle

28 September: Glen Effock to Clova



Kris, Linda, Fiona, Julie, Alan and Colin  
Loch Wharral

The 37 walkers who started this walk two miles west of Tarfside village had good weather the whole day. Most climbed over Muckle Cairn and Green Hill, and a few included Ben Tirran and The Goet en route to Clova. We had wonderful views of Lochs Wharral and Brandy before the steep knee-trembling descent to Clova. Graham

12 October: Silverford to Tullynestle

There was a good turnout of 35 for this walk from the A9002 Cabrach road at Silverford Farm round the edge of Clova Estate to Lumsden. The second part of the walk involved a climb over Edinbanchory Hill and Lord Arthur's Hill before descending to the Blacklatch Burn and following it past Terpersie Castle to the bus at Tullynestle. The day was dull and overcast, but it stayed dry.

Bill

26 October: West Gordon Way (Suie to Esson's)



Elevenes on Knock Saul



Ian, Colin, John, Moira, Linda, Margaret, Fiona, Alan and Arlene on Oxen Craig during lunch.

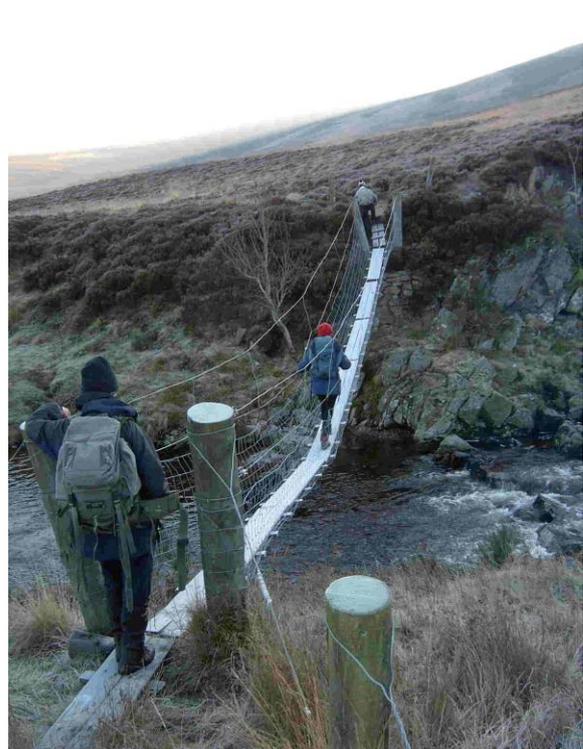
9 November: Loch Ullachie to Mill o Sterin



Surmounting the locked forestry gate

The Coyles o Muick walk started with the challenge of a locked forestry gate. Having overcome the obstacle, a fine day led to a good walk. Proliferation of roads through the forest caused confusion over the route later, but all arrived at the bus eventually. Sally

7 December 2003: Glen Dye circular



Wire suspension bridge over the Dye

With 32 walkers on Gordon's bus, a beautiful clear sunny day saw the majority traverse Clachnaben and Cairn of Finglenny, and descend to Charr Bothy for lunch. Various routes were then taken to the summit of Meluncart. On the way back to Miller's Bog carpark, great fun was had by those who crossed the rickety wire suspension bridge over the river. Graham



Fiona Wallace

11 January: Culblean Hill (Tullich to Dinnet)



Snow on Culblean Hill

Our New Year walk saw us visit this hill on the north side of the Dee, overlooking Loch Kinord and the Howe of Cromar. We set off on a cold, clear day heading up the glen between Crannoch Hill and Culblean Hill, but were met by blizzard conditions as we struggled up the hill. Towards the main 1981ft summit, however, the snow stopped and we enjoyed glorious views of Lochnagar and Lochs Davan and Kinord.



Loch Kinord from Culblean Hill

The sun continued to shine through the cold, crisp day and we were soon casting anoraks and leggings as we descended south to enter the forest and pick up the track to The Vat. Many of us spent a short time visiting this large cauldron formed many years ago by swirling glacial melt-waters. Our walk ended with a meal at the Loch Kinord Hotel, Dinnet. Frank

8 February: Lunan Bay to Arbroath

Because of strong northwesterly winds, this walk was reversed, and we started near Red Castle on Lunan Bay. The wind was so severe that some had difficulty staying upright, and one member fell and cut his head. An alternative route from Auchmithy reconnoitred by Vi and Rosie followed the coast by a public footpath and is strongly recommended for future walks. The rain held off on a very bracing walk. Jim

29 February: Dinnet to Ballater



Single file from Dinnet

Under-foot conditions were six to twelve inches of fresh fluffy snow, and would have been ideal for cross-country skis, had anyone brought them.



Cambus o May Station

Hence, the intended walk from Corse to Aboyne over Craiglich and Mortlich was replaced with the Dinnit to Ballater route. The walk proceeded in Christmas-card scenery, with bright sunshine in a cloudless sky all day. Time available did not allow for an ambitious extension of the walk round the Seven Bridges of Ballater, but did provide for a circuit of Craigendarroch (or a couple of hours in a pub).  
Kris

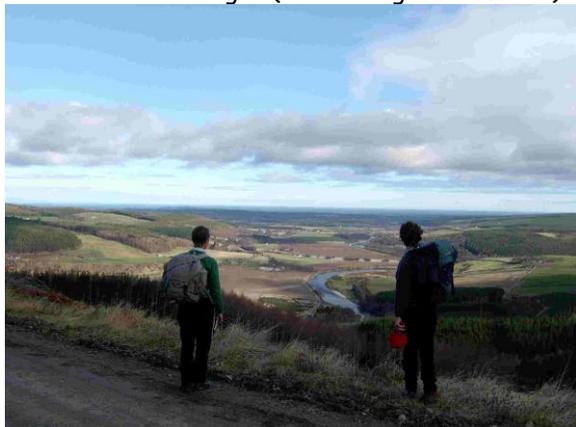


View upstream from Cambus o May Bridge

14 March: Bridgend, Gartly to Grouse Inn, Cabrach

Although recent snow had disappeared around Aberdeen, it was still lying about a foot deep in Clashindarroch Forest, soft on top but with ice underneath in places. This tended to impede progress for most of us, but apart from two slight showers, the weather was fair. After I twisted a knee, I would have been late getting to the Inn, but the bus came along the road and met me near Hillock Farm, thanks to Gordon.  
Bill

28th March: Ben Aigen (Boat o Brig to Dufftown)



River Spey

On a beautiful day with great views, Speyside was draped in its spring glory. Those of us less technically minded were amused when some GPS users took an unexpected diversion!  
Vi



Tea at Dufftown

11 April: Balmoral to Spittal o Muick



Linda, Alan, Susan, Wilma, John and Margaret  
The Glas Allt bridge.

With a good turnout of 37 walkers, only Jim Henderson and Colin Chapman went for Lochnagar, while the rest went over Conachraig *en route* to Spittal of Muick or contoured over Monelpie Moss to the Glas Allt. It was a surprisingly pleasant day with only a couple of light showers. A half-hour stop was taken at Ballater on the return to Aberdeen.  
Graham

#### Current Program of Walks

Culbin Forest is the venue on 23 May when some club members will be away on the Week's Hike. This can be an enjoyable walk on a clear day with a mixture of forest and seashore together with distant views across the Moray Firth. The last part of the walk takes us along the mouth of the Findhorn.

On 6 June, we depart at 7am to head up Deeside beyond Braemar to Linn of Dee. The bus will be at the carpark all day, and various walks and climbs, long and short, will be available.

On 20 June, we visit Glen Clova for a traverse of the ridge of hills along the south side of the glen starting at Airlie Tower at the mouth of the glen and finishing at Milton of Clova.

Another 7am start is necessary on 4 July for a trip to the Drumochter Hills north of Blairatholl. Around Dalnaspidal Lodge, there are plenty of Munroes on either side of the glen, which should make for a worthwhile day.

We stay nearer home on 18 July for a walk from Cairnwell carpark on the Devil's Elbow road to Spittal of Glenshee, via the hills on the Cairnwell side or Glas Maol on the east side.

On 1 August, another 7am start sees us heading to Coylum Bridge north of the Cairngorms for a crossing of the range to Linn of Dee via the Lairig Ghru or over Ben Macdui.

Various circular walks and climbs are possible on 15 August when the bus will be at Keiloch carpark, Invercauld.

On 29 August, we visit the Tomintoul area for a through walk from Dorback Lodge to Tomintoul via Geal Charn and the Ailnack Gorge. An alternative circular walk from Tomintoul takes in Ca-Du Ford.

The Perthshire jewel of Schiehallion is the aim on 12 September, crossing from Lassintulloch to Braes of Foss. [The descent is much improved by John Muir Trust path-work. - Ed.]

On 26 September we head down to Glen Isla for a strenuous crossing from Canness Glen over Tom Buidhe and past Loch Esk before climbing over to Loch Muick to finish at the Spittal.

An old favourite, Corriehabbie Hill near Dufftown is the venue for 10 October, crossing from Tomnavoulin in Glenlivet to Glacks of Balloch on the A941 Rhynie Road.

On 24 October, we tackle another favourite walk from Glen Dye climbing over into Glen Esk for the walk by the Rocks of Solitude along the North Esk to finish at Edzell.

### Tour of the Vanoise

One of the classic routes of the French Alps, this is a hut-to-hut circuit in the Vanoise National Park.

Wedged between the Mont Blanc range and the Massif des Ecrins, the Vanoise National Park (oldest in France) is the most spectacular part of the Graian Alps that spread across the Italian frontier. With an admirable network of trails, 42 mountain huts, scores of little lakes, glaciers and snowfields, and more than a hundred 10,000ft (3,000m) peaks, the Vanoise is a hugely attractive region for mountain walkers, climbers, skiers, botanists and anyone interested in wildlife. If you want a better-than-average chance of encountering chamois, ibex or marmot on a walking tour through top-rate mountain scenery, the Tour of the Vanoise (ToV) is for you.

Covering a distance of about 95 miles (154km), the ToV makes a partial figure-of-eight circuit linking Modane and Bonneval in the Haute Maurienne, with Val d'Isere and Pralognan to the north and west respectively, passing below the great rock-and-ice wall of the Grande Motte and Grande Casse (3855m, highest in Savoy) by adopting a section of the GR55 (a variant of the Grande Traverse des Alpes). Way-marks and cairns are mostly sufficient guidance where paths are indistinct, and numerous signposts have been erected by the Park Authority at major trail junctions. The route avoids glacier crossings and has no scrambling or vertigo-inspiring exposure, but is fairly demanding at times and seeks out some wild and dramatic corners. It crosses several passes over 8,200ft (2,500m) and the total height gain for the 10-12 day walk is around 23,000ft (7,000m).

The advantage of this trek is that all the refuges on the tour provide half-board accommodation and blankets, so all you need carry is a lightweight pillowcase-type sleeping-sac. There is no need to carry sleeping bag, sleeping mat, tent, cooking utensils, and such; you only carry essentials. The best time to visit is late June to early July when the flora of French Alpine pastures are at their best before the French holiday month commencing Bastille Day, 14 July.

Finally, with a direct rail link to Paris, the small town of Modane in the southern Maurienne Valley is the ideal place to start the ToV.

It will take time to work out the logistics for this proposal: booking beds and food in the refuges (I

have all the phone numbers), booking tickets, and deciding on a final departure date; so have a serious think about this adventure. I did part of this tour three years ago from a campsite in Pralognan en Vanoise, so I can assure you of a fantastic area with breathtaking scenery. The

tourist board claims the Vanoise massif enjoys a *dry, sunny climate, almost Mediterranean in its intensity.*

If you are interested in this walk, contact Graham Sangster. [www.sangstergi@marlab.ac.uk](mailto:www.sangstergi@marlab.ac.uk)

### WHAT'S IN A NAME

We have all studied OS maps of Scotland during our outings and been bamboozled and tongue-tied by the Gaelic names of the hills, lochs and glens. However, a little knowledge of the derivation of landscape names can add considerably to the pleasure of exploring Scotland's hills. Many bear highly evocative Gaelic names, which might look impenetrable, but even a brief study will unravel the elements of many of them. Gaelic is a rich descriptive language, and a few of the more common hill-name elements are given below. Sharp-eyed readers may notice some similarities to Welsh words, which is not surprising as Celtic languages have a common root.

Aber - a river mouth or confluence

Aird, ard - high place

Airigh - shieling

Allt - mountain stream

Amhainn - river

Baile - township

Bàn, bhàn - white or fair

Beag - small

Bealach - mountain pass

Beithe - birch tree

Ben, beinn, bheinn - hill

Bidean - peak

Breac - speckled

Buidhe - yellow

Ceann - head

Clach - stone

Cnoc - hillock

Coille - wood

Daimh, damh - stag

Dearg - red

Druim, drum - ridge

Dubh - dark, black

Dun - hill fort

Each - horse

Eag - notch

Eaglais - church

Eas - waterfall

Eilean - island

Fionn - white, bright

Fraoch - heather

Fuar - cold

Gabhar - goat

Garbh - rough

Gearr - short

Ghlas, glas - grey/green

Gorm - blue

Inbhir, inver - confluence

Iolair - eagle

Knock - hillock

Lag, lagan - hollow

Lairig - pass

Liath - grey

Màm - round hill

Meadhon - middle

Mhór, mór - big

Moine - bog, moss

Ruadh - red

Rubha, rudha - promontory

Ruigh - shieling

Scuir, sgurr, sgòr - rocky peak

Sith - fairy

Sron - nose

Srath, strath - wide glen

Stob - peak

Stuc, stuchd - rocky peak

Tobar - well

Torr - small hill

Uaine - green

Uamh - cave

Uig - bay

Uisge - water

[Often an *h* is inserted after the first letter of a word, or an *i* inserted before the last consonant group. These variations are purely grammatical, do not affect the meaning and are not listed in dictionaries. Plurals usually end in *an*, *and*, confusingly, so do diminutives! - Ed.]

**Prize Quiz**

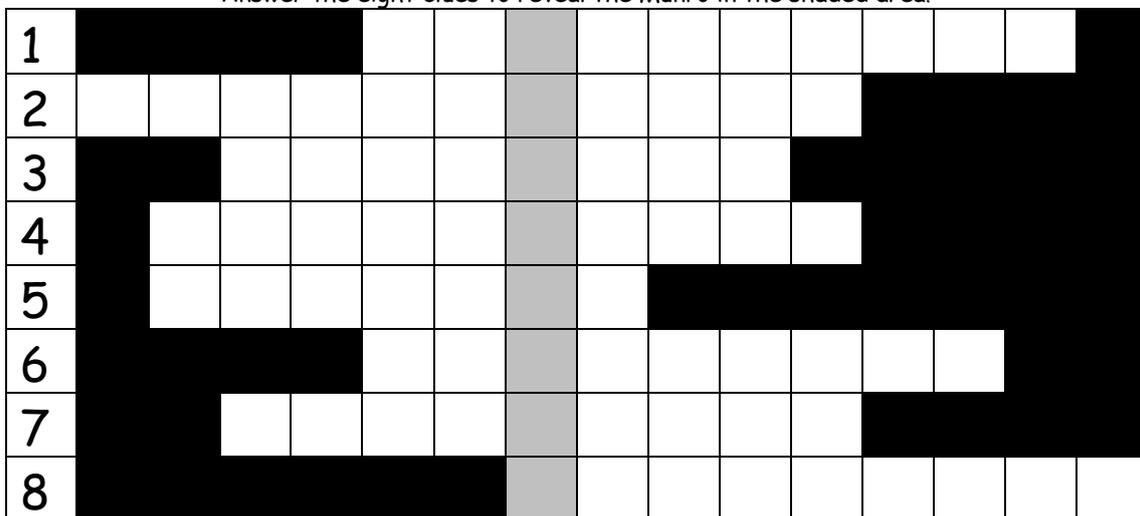
Do you know .....

1. Which drove road the *Gwaves* is on?
2. Which sign has been reprieved?
3. Who reputedly walked from *Clova* to *Auchallater*?
4. What you might see at *Loch Ordie*?
5. Which watery spirit is in *Glen Clova*?
6. Which NE village has a famous phone box?
7. What happened recently at *Luibeg*?
8. Which hill you would climb starting past *Allt a' Bhainne* distillery?
9. Which river runs between *Inverallochy* and the *Broch*?
10. Where the *Thieves Stane* is?
11. Where you would find a *Green Hill*, a *White Hill* and a *Frosty Hill* close together?
12. What the *Clash of Wirren* is?
13. What you would find at *Inchrory*?
14. What *Carlin Meggie* is?
15. Which kind of bird is at home on *Troup Head*?
16. What purpose the *Caterthuns* served?
17. Which fort has *Hell's Lum* nearby?
18. Which could be the *Glen* of changing colours?
19. Where you would be going to if you leave a road through a door in a wall?
20. Which path runs between *Glen Prosen* and *Glen Clova*?

Give answers to any committee member. A prize will be awarded to the owner of the set of correct answers (according to Jim Henderson) drawn on the walk on 20 June.

**CROSSWORD**

Answer the eight clues to reveal the Munro in the shaded area!



1. The translation of this mountain is *The Forge*.
2. This *Hill of the Streamlet* overlooks *Loch Tulla*.
3. A remote Munro to the west of *Loch Ericht*.
4. Stands proudly in the *Cairngorms* above the *Robbers' Copse*.
5. *Leabaidh an Daimh Bhuidhe* - but what is its common name?
6. The most easterly Munro.
7. Its summit tor is called *Cac Carn Beag*.
8. One of the sources of the *South Esk* rises in its shallow northern corrie.

Aberdeen Telephones Hillwalking Club

Finally, if you have any interesting articles, poems, stories, photoes, anything with a hillwalking theme, please send details to Secretary Heather Eddie for publication in the next Newsletter.

The Editor would like to thank all who contributed to this and previous editions.