



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

### Chairman's Chat

Welcome all to the 2006-2007 season of walks. Our monthly winter walks have ended and we are now into the regular fortnightly program agreed at the recent AGM. Many of you have rejoined the Club, and currently our membership is around fifty. No doubt, this will increase as the season progresses. We look forward to seeing you on outings in the very near future, and if you have any friends that would like to join us, then take them along. There is no requirement to join the Club immediately as we allow newcomers to attend at least two walks for £1.00 extra per outing before deciding if our walks are to their liking.

We have distributed our program to hillwalking shops, libraries, community centres and the tourist office. We are also updating our website in hopes of increased membership. Let us all play our part in encouraging newcomers to attend.

In previous Newsletters, I reported a suggestion to spend Jim Brebner's £1000.00 bequest on a simple bridge across the Geldie Burn. We have written to Mar Lodge Estate, and await a reply. We will update you when more is known. Meantime, the funds have been transferred to a high-interest account ensuring we gain as much as possible from the bequest.

### Annual General Meeting

Around twenty members attended on Wednesday 8 February 2005 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, Kris Howard, Gilbert McCurdy,  
Bill Marr, Graham Sangster, Vi Walker

Auditors ..... Marjory McLeod, Rosemary Kelly

The Committee's draft program of outings for 2006 were approved subject to an amendment to the walk on 24 September, replacing Ben Chonzie with Ben Tirran. The bus cost for Ben Chonzie was very high, and the AGM endorsed the Committee recommendation of a change of venue.

Treasurer Sally Henderson presented the financial statement for the year ending 31 December 2005, showing funds healthy, with £3872 in bank accounts. This includes Jim Brebner's £1000.00 bequest.

Outings made a small profit over the year, which can offset expected fuel cost increases in the coming season. The £14.00 maximum fare set at last year's AGM is unchanged, likewise the £10.00 annual membership fee.

Donations were approved of £75.00 each to Braemar Mountain Rescue Team and the Mountain Rescue Association of Scotland, and our affiliations to North East Mountain Trust and Ramblers Association were continued. A constitutional amendment relating to winding up the Club was briefly discussed, and approved later at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 12 March 2006 outing. This change was necessary for our public liability cover.

Overall, we start the new season in a very healthy state, and look forward to another successful year.

### Congratulations

A few members of the Club are walking with a lighter step as they have recently celebrated becoming grandparents. Firstly, Frank and Rosemary Kelly became grandparents for a second time with the arrival of Jake Kelly, a brother for Neave. Then Ann McAuley became a proud

grandmother to Ben, and finally Gilbert and Grace McCurdy have a new grandson called James. Congratulations to all. We look forward to some younger new members in years to come. Frank

#### Discounts

Do you require new or replacement gear? We remind you that discounts are available at the following on production of a signed 2006 membership card, which you receive on paying your annual membership fee.

Blacks, George Street ..... 10%  
Craigdon Sports, 5 St Andrew St ..... 10%  
Millets, Union Street ..... 10%  
Nevisport, 186 George Street

10% on selected lines

Graham Tiso, 26 Netherkirkgate

Discount only on club sales nights when up to 25% discount is available on selected lines (6.30 - 8.30pm, first Monday of each month)

#### Editor's Chat

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and if you have any interesting articles or stories with a hillwalking theme, please send details to Editor Kris Howard or Secretary Heather Eddie for publication in the next issue. I would like to thank all contributors to this edition. Photos were supplied by Graham, Heather and the Hendersons.

For the sake of brevity, the Editor reserves the right to edit texts submitted, but every effort is made to retain the author's meaning.

The Club has a copy of the Ramblers' Association's *Accommodation Guide* available, listing B&Bs all round the UK.

#### Weather Forecasts

BBC1 ..... about 6.55pm  
Radio Scotland ..... Mon - Fri 6.58pm  
Sat 6.58am, 6.58pm  
Sun 6.58am, 7.58pm

Mountain Call East ..... 09068500442  
Mountain Call West ..... 09068500441  
AA Roadwatch ..... 09003444900  
Mountain Weather Information Service

<http://www.mwis.org.uk/forecasts.php>

But maybe you have a better source - let me know  
[kris\\_howard@ntlworld.com](mailto:kris_howard@ntlworld.com)

#### Treasurer's Chat

Those of you who missed the AGM will be pleased to know that our finances are in a healthy state. Outings made a profit in 2005, carried over to this year. £2000 was put into a higher-interest

account. Half is Jimmy Brebner's bequest; half has been accumulated over the last few years in case we are ever unable to use the facilities of BT for meetings and photocopying.

We again made donations of £75 each to Braemar Mountain Rescue and Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland. We are affiliated to the Ramblers, enabling us to take out public liability insurance at an affordable rate. We continued our affiliation to North East Mountain Trust.

Thanks again to kind people who bring out a selection of coins and notes to pay bus fares without needing change. What a difference this has made since I mentioned it last spring. A £9.00 fare has been collected - something I used to avoid because of problems with change. Sally

#### Reporters' Notes

11 September 2005: Spittal o Glenshee circular



Glenn Beag from Meall Uaine

We set off on a clear day for Spittal o Glenshee with a party of 28. It was dry with almost no wind. Twelve took the steady climb up Meall Uaine. Graham's two black Labradors raced uphill along with Ian Grassie's black spaniel. What fun! We all wished we had their energy. It was a super day. We came down to join route one along the road. The mileage seemed to be miscalculated. Seven miles turned out more like ten or twelve. At 5.30pm, we arrived at the bus to find all nine of the Glas Tulaichean party back before us. We took our usual refreshments in the hotel or beside the bus. It had been a refreshing walk with magnificent views. With no stop on the way home, we were back about 8.30pm. Alex

25 September: Invermark circular

Twenty-one stalwarts set out from Aberdeen on a dull morning with some rain while we were on the bus. However, it was just about dry when we started walking, though there were still clouds on

the tops. Despite this, Vi, Rosie and Alex Barbour decided to climb Mount Keen (the Keen walkers!). The rest did the walk past Falls of Unich, where there were still midges to attack those who stopped.



Above Falls of Damff

As forecast, it began to clear up by lunchtime, and turned into a glorious afternoon. Those on Mount Keen reported excellent views from the tops, but had to keep going to complete the walk on time. Of the others, some made use of a bridge not far past Falls of Damff, while the rest followed the route sheet path with varying degrees of success in crossing the water. The descent gave wonderful views of Garloch and Loch Lee. It is a pity so many missed such an enjoyable day. David



Stepping stones are much more fun than the footbridge just out of sight!

9 October: Bithnie - Tarland

This walk saw us cross some Donside hills from Howe of Alford to Cromar. A good turnout of members on a seasonable day saw us set off from the Alford-Lumsden road toward Bithnie Farm, through trees and up Coiliochbhar Hill. The route was not straightforward, and we had to negotiate more forest before getting down to Upper Minmore Farm.



Summit of Pressendye

The planned route would have taken us by the secondary road to Milton of Cushnie, and then up Glen of Cushnie to Pressendye summit. However, most of the party bypassed the road walk, and headed up onto Scar Hill and The Socach before reaching the wild and windy summit of Pressendye. It was very cold at the top, so we descended quickly, and the forest track on Pittenderich Hill sheltered us *en route* to the Tarland road. Some had time to visit Culsh Earth-house or Souterrain, an underground structure dating from Pictish times (fifth or sixth century A.D.), while most headed directly to a cosy Tarland hotel. Frank

23 October: Peter's Hill



Frank Kelly watches low cloud burn off Deeside

It was a strange morning as we travelled up Deeside. Low cloud filled the valley under a temperature inversion. Twenty-eight members walked north up the path from Pass of Ballater. The low cloud soon burned off and the day turned out reasonably clear and dry. At the summit of Peter's Hill, we had good views all round, and this continued all the way back to Ballater via Milton of Tullich. Refreshments were taken at the Prince of Wales just off the square in Ballater, concluding a most enjoyable day. Graham

27 October: Social Night at Royal Hotel



Drinks after Dinner

6 November: Bin of Cullen



Bin of Cullen trig point

Jim was in charge. A newcomer from Fraserburgh was taken up the Bin by the direct, pathless route and has not been out since. Youngsters were doing back flips on the trig point. Sally



Tea at the Bus

There was a good turnout, even with five cancellations. On a bright, calm day, it took the driver and ourselves some time to find the correct starting place. After something of a bus-tour, we eventually made it. We set off through trees onto

the hillside, where long heather made it tough going. We stopped at the top in a large group for our break, and then it was downhill all the way on a gloriously sunny late autumn day. There was easy walking on a level, leaf-strewn path with that smell typical of a *tattie-howking* day. We seldom visit this area, but it was at its best today. Back at the bus, we had our usual cuppa. We stopped in Keith for a half-hour's refreshment with chips or pints. Most found a very pleasant *neuk* in the pub. A smooth trip got us home good and early. Alex

4 December: Glentnar circular

There were 29 walkers out today, not bad for a cold December day. One party went to the Strone and Baudy Meg areas, and the rest came with me to climb Clachan Yell, a top close to Mount Keen. It was bitterly cold on the summit and our intended return route by Halfway Hut in Glen Tanar was abandoned on encountering waist-deep snow south of Mount Keen. We retraced our steps and just made the stipulated bus departure time by five minutes. Overall, it was a good but quite tiring day. Graham

8 January 2006: Linn o Quoich - Keiloch



Beside the Dee

We had an excellent turnout for the first walk of the year on a glorious day, sunny and clear but very dry and frosty. Leaving Aberdeen after 9.00am, it was debatable if there was time to complete the longer walk. Nobody did, but a few went for a walk over the alternative two tops. Several of us decided to have a leisurely stroll on the path along the Dee. There was a welcome return by Bill Marr on his first outing for some time. I accompanied him for most of the walk at a slower pace. Reaching the bus with lots of time to spare, a few stalwarts decided to carry on along the trail behind the trees coming out at the back of the Inver. With everyone else back at the bus, we set off for our 5.00pm meal, arriving in time

for an aperitif, dram or coffee. The meal was excellent, with time for a brief rest before starting home. Alex



Below Beinn a' Bhuid

A good turnout enjoyed a variety of routes from Linn o Quoich to Keiloch. We had a sunny and reasonably mild day for the time of year. The walk was followed by an excellent meal at the Inver, where we were made very welcome and enjoyed a cosy atmosphere with an open fire. Heather



Meal at the Inver

5 February: Bennachie

The 9.00am departure was delayed, as Gordon forgot to instruct the new driver to pick up Alex. A circuitous route brought us to the Donview carpark for an even later start to the walk. We set off up Millstone Hill on a surprisingly bright and calm day giving pleasant walking conditions. The route down from Millstone to the Clachie Burn has been improved with sleeper walkways across boggy areas, making it easier on the feet.

We continued up the Monymusk Triangle to the Mither Tap. There were fine views, light winds and a goodly number of visitors, families, dogs and such, like Union Street on Saturday afternoon. Jim Inglis and I took a newly laid path down

toward the Bennachie Centre at Esson's, but on reaching a lower level, we set off cross-country through tough-going deep heather for the bus at Rowantree carpark. Alex

26 February: Cullykhan Bay - Rosehearty



Pennan from Cliff-Top Path

This outing made a good start to the 2006 program with a turnout of 39. The weather was good at the start, with a northwesterly behind us as we walked east to Rosehearty. A couple of blustery rain showers did not dampen our spirits, but the many barbed wire fences across the route suggest that any repeat be postponed to next millennium. Nevertheless, this was a very scenic walk. Refreshments were taken in the Bay Hotel, Rosehearty. Graham



Picnic Spot

12 March: Not the West Gordon Way!

Perhaps the less said about this walk the better! With 31 members aboard, the coach set off for Sue Hill as planned, but in blizzard conditions a hastily convened committee meeting decided to abort the outing in favour of a coastal walk from Cove to Nigg Bay, Torry and Duthie Park. This is the first Club walk I have been on where a street map would have been more useful than an OS Landranger! The walk turned out quite challenging,

with a full gale driving snow and sleet. The angry sea made for dramatic coastal views. Definitely a walk worth repeating in better weather. We all got home in time to see Ireland thrash England in the Six Nations rugby match - not a good day for a Sassenach!  
Colin Chapman  
[Only if he is interested in Rugby Ed.]



Angry Sea off Altens



Waterfall

26 March: Lary - Bellabeg  
Of twenty-five walkers, twenty went over Mona Gowan, but there was a lot of snow on the hill, so five did a circular walk on Donside involving Lost. On the way home, there was a half-hour stop at Alford. What a difference the first day of the smoking ban made to the pub atmosphere - clean air at last.  
Vi



Woodland Coffee-stop

9 April: Kirkmichael - Forter  
With the forecast totally wrong, we had a great walk, with blue sky and sunshine all day, except for a small snow flurry mid-afternoon on Mount Blair. We had tremendous panoramic views from the summit.  
Graham



Mount Blair Orientation Table

It was a mainly sunny day, but with a very cold wind. Heather did a good deed in lifting a lamb out of the roots of a tree in a burn, and going halfway back up the hill we had just come down to return it to the flock.  
Sally

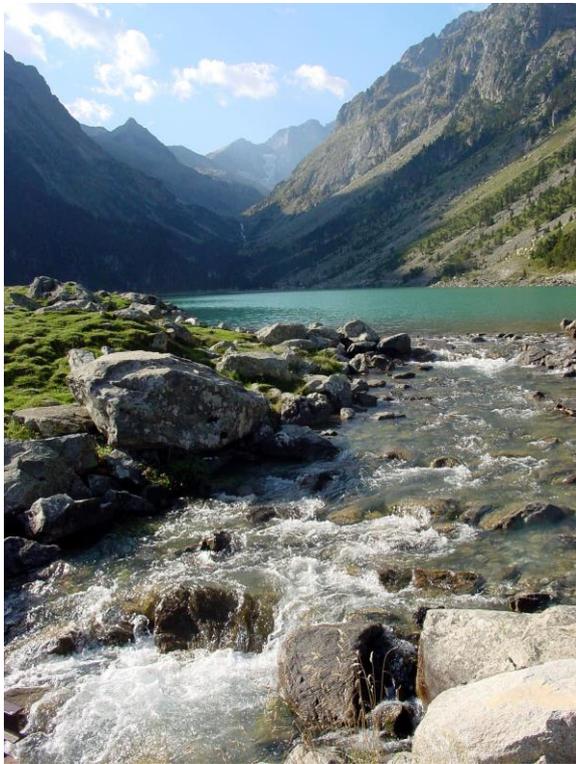
#### Walking in Midi-Pyrénées - 2005

"Europe ends at the Pyrenees" is a well-established cliché born of a geographical half-truth. This mountain barrier stretching some 400km from Atlantic to Mediterranean is a natural frontier separating the Iberian Peninsula from Western Europe.

For centuries, the Pyrenees basked in the mystery of the unknown. Unaccountably dismissed as holding little of importance to the climber, mountain walkers ignored them almost completely. However, all this has changed and the Pyrenees

are now the focus of attention for mountain activists of all degrees of commitment.

The Alps they are not, and it would be a mistake to attempt comparisons. These are mountains of another order, with something to offer every climber and walker. There are summits above 3000m within reach of most Scottish hill-walkers, and vertical faces of awesome stature to test the stamina and expertise of the ardent rock specialist. There are valleys lost in transient mists where weeks of high summer pass with barely a visitor, though these are becoming fewer. There are tracts of unspoilt upland to answer the dreams of the devoted backpacker, and acres of alpine flowers of such variety that a botanist can happily spend months there.



Lac de Gaube

Last summer, five ATHWC members including myself flew to Toulouse in southern France. We travelled onwards by rail to Lourdes and by mail bus to Cauterets (902m), our chosen base in the Pyrenean foothills. Cauterets began as a spa, then developed as a winter ski resort, but is also very busy in summer with a wide range of outdoor activities.

On arrival in Cauterets, we had no problem renting good self-catering accommodation in the town centre with easy access to local facilities. Cauterets lies at the confluence of three valleys,

the Lutour, the Marcadau and the Gaube, forming the Val de Jeret. Guidebooks state that these three offer some of the most spectacular scenery in the Pyrenees, and indeed the scenery, wildlife and flora are unsurpassed. On many days, we saw vultures, eagles, chamois, marmots and magnificent alpine flowers. With almost cloudless skies for our fortnight's stay, what more could we ask? Somebody up there was looking after us! Our outings from Cauterets consisted of day walks of about eight hours, followed by relaxing drinks and meals in local hostelrys.

What a wonderful area to visit! We had a great walking holiday, and I thank my companions for making our trip to Midi-Pyrénées one to remember for a long, long time.

*Merci, mes amis*

Graham

### The Dolomites

Selva, Val Gardena, September 2006



The Dolomites of the South Tyrol - once Austrian, now Italian - are surely the most extraordinary and surreal mountains in Europe. Great fingers of rock, spindly towers and turrets bursting from a bed of green pastureland are the very stuff of legend and imagination. A defiant climber's playground, between them lies a richly rewarding terrain for walkers. With the fortress-like Sella Group as backdrop, Sasso Lungo dominating the south, and the Puez-Odle Parco Naturale on the north side of the valley, walkers using Selva as a base at the upper end of Val Gardena need never be short of ideas or ambition. The extravagant mountain wonderland that is the Dolomites is rarely more accessible than here in Selva and its neighbouring villages of St Christina and Ortisei.

After ATHWC's recent successful visits to the Vanoise and the Pyrenees, members have shown much interest in further Alpine walking. I intend organizing a two-week holiday in summer 2006, doing day walks from a base in Selva, Val Gardena. Organizing such a trip is complex, so this

notification is not too early. Come and speak to me with your questions or with a definite intent to participate in this trip. Costs depend on early booking of flights and availability of accommodation. Graham  
Phone 582986 [sangstergi@btopenworld.com](mailto:sangstergi@btopenworld.com)

[I heartily endorse Graham's remarks. The botany, too, has to be seen to be believed. When you meet someone on a hill path, will they say *Buon Giorno* or *Grüß Gott*? High point of my Dolomites holiday was the ascent of the 10,000' Monte Pelmo, which is completely encircled by towering cliffs. The walker's route involves a horizontal ledge (Ball's Ledge) running a kilometre or so round the cliffs, connecting the lower screes to the upper screes. Ed.]

**Aye, We're Aa' Gettin' Aal'**

Now that I'm retired and determined to keep myself fit and healthy in my senior years by participating in as many ATHWC outings as possible, I came upon this letter that an elderly friend recently wrote to a loved one. It makes one think... Graham

**When Youth Is Spent**

Just a line to say I'm living,  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in my head.

I've got used to my arthritis,  
To my dentures I'm resigned,  
I can cope with my bifocals,  
But, ye gods - I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember,  
When I'm standing by the stair,  
If I'm going up for something,  
Or I've just come down from there.

Before the fridge so often  
My mind is full of doubt.  
Did I put some food away,  
Or come to take some out?

So, remember I do love you,  
And wish that you lived near,  
And now it's time to post this,  
And say "Hello, my dear."

I stand before the post box,  
My face it sure is red,  
Instead of posting this to you,  
I've opened it instead!

**Should we Forget the Mither Tongue? (2)**

Following a recent ATHWC Newsletter article on Doric translations, our membership has shown much interest in this topic. I therefore include some more words and expressions to interest the reader and give a greater understanding of our dialect. Graham

**Doric Terms**

Ain back .....	revenge, one's own back
Antrin .....	occasional
Atween .....	between
Bandies .....	minnows
Besom .....	broom; hussy
Big .....	build
Birlin .....	twirling
Bokin .....	vomiting
Boodie .....	scarecrow
Bools .....	marbles
Boorach .....	crowd; hovel
Breeks .....	trousers
Byre .....	cowshed
Canny .....	skilful; pleasant
Chappin .....	tapping, knocking
Cleuk .....	claw
Deem, dame .....	girl
Deuks .....	ducks
Dicht .....	wipe
Dingin doon .....	raining heavily, beating down
Doos .....	doves
Doot .....	doubt
Dowie .....	sad
Dowp .....	bottom
Duds .....	rags
Dweemly-dwaamly .....	feeble
Fash .....	fuss, worry
Fashious .....	fussy
Feart .....	afraid
Ferlie .....	strange; a strange sight
Ficherin .....	fidgeting fingers
Fient .....	fiend; damn all
Flech .....	flea
Flee .....	fly
Flit .....	move house
Foggioloan .....	Aberchirder
Foons .....	foundations
Foostie .....	fusty, musty
Footer .....	nuisance
Forfochen .....	exhausted
Forkie, forkietail .....	earwig
Fricht, fleg .....	frighten
Furlie .....	rotating (whirling) clothes dryer
Fushionless .....	insipid, lifeless
Fuskers .....	whiskers
Fusper .....	whisper

Aberdeen Telephones Hillwalking Club

Futrat .....	weasel, ferret	Rowies .....	rolls, butteries
Gar .....	cause to	Ruggit tee .....	tugged closed
Glaikit.....	silly	Rungumtion .....	common sense, gumption
Gow ower .....	persuade	Sair .....	sore, very
Gowden .....	golden	Sair awaa wi't .....	in a bad state
Guff .....	smell	Sappy .....	juicy
Gweed-wird .....	prayer	Sark .....	shirt; shift
Gyad sakes .....	Ugh!; for God's sake!	Scutter .....	work ineffectively
Gype .....	fool	Shaachlin .....	shuffling
Haar .....	sea mist	Shank .....	handle; leg
Hantle .....	a great many	Shargart .....	stunted
Heid-bummer .....	headman, queen bee	Sharn .....	cow dung
Hingin-luggit .....	bedraggled	Sheel, shuil .....	to shovel
Hirple .....	hobble	Shooglt .....	shook
Hiz .....	us	Skelpit .....	smacked
Hoodie craa .....	hooded crow	Skirtl .....	screamed, skirled
Hotchin.....	seething, crowded	Sloch'rin .....	wallowing
Howkin .....	digging	Smoar .....	smother; full of
Humphie-backit .....	round shouldered	Snorl .....	tangle, snarl up
Hunner .....	hundred	Soor ploom .....	sour-faced person; boiled sweet
Hurdies .....	haunches	Sotter .....	mess
Ilka .....	every	Speen, spuin .....	spoon
Ill-faart .....	ugly, ill-favoured	Spurdie .....	sparrow
Ingins .....	onions	Stap .....	stuff
Jeelt .....	cold as ice	Stacherin .....	staggering
Kittle .....	excite; tickle	Starvation .....	very cold weather
Kneipin on .....	persevering	Steen .....	stone
Kyte .....	belly	Steer .....	stir
Lee .....	lie	Stirk .....	bullock
Lickin .....	thrashing	Streeve .....	quarrelled
Limmer .....	disreputable woman; scoundrel	Stushie, stishie .....	row
Littlins .....	young children	Styoo .....	dust
Lowsin time .....	time to stop work	Sweir .....	reluctant
Mait .....	food	Sypin.....	dripping
Marless .....	matchless	Tak the rise o .....	play a trick on, take a rise out of
Meck .....	halfpenny	Teem, tuim .....	empty
Mirk .....	darkness, murk	Thraan .....	stubborn
Moosie .....	mouse	Throwder .....	higgledy-piggledy, chaotic
Mowser .....	moustache	Timmer .....	wood, timber
Muckle waar .....	much worse	Toeel .....	towel
Mumpin .....	moping	Toonser .....	person brought up in a town
Nowt .....	cattle	Tootie .....	tipple, dram
Nyaakit .....	naked	Trachel .....	struggle; impede
On the randan .....	carousing, on the razzle	Turra .....	Turriff
Oxter .....	armpit	Unco .....	very, uncommonly
Peel .....	pill	Vext .....	anxious
Peel, puil .....	pool	Waar .....	worse
Peety .....	pity	Wabbit .....	exhausted
Preen .....	pin	Weet .....	wet
Press .....	wall cupboard	Winner .....	wonder
Raivelt .....	confused, tangled	Yalla cloot .....	yellow duster
Reddit oot .....	cleaned up	Yarkit .....	tugged
Reets, ruits .....	roots	Yockie .....	itchy
Roch .....	coarse, rough	Yokin time .....	time to start work

### The Doric Wet Office

With horrendous weather on 12 March forcing us to cancel our West Gordon Way walk, I sympathise with forecasters. Consider these predictions from our Doric weather station. Graham

#### Wither Forecast

'Ere's a bittie haar  
At Midmar,  
But it could be waar.  
On the ither haan,  
At Stra'an,  
Ye canna see faar ye're gaan.  
'Ere's fog  
At Drumclog,  
An fog's a bit o' a fouter  
At Peterculter.  
In fact, it's real foutrie  
Aa the wye sooth tae Tillycoultry.  
  
Houiniver, its clear  
At New Deer;  
An at Rhyne,  
The sun's fairly shiny.  
Temperatures'll be weel doon at Turra  
Tomurra.  
It'll be some caal  
Aroun Birkhaal;  
An at Mintlaw Station,  
Jist starvation.  
It'll feel on the jeelt-side  
At Bieldside;  
An ye winna see Dyce  
For ice.  
  
It'll be some roch  
At the Broch;  
An gey roch indeed  
At Peterheid.  
  
'Ere'll be an antrin shower  
At Aberlour;  
It'll be real weet  
At Kingseat;  
An at Auchinblae  
It'll pour aa day.  
Thunner an lichtnin'll mak an unco sicht  
Out be Gight.  
Bit if 'ere's a place nae tae hud a weddin,  
It's Pitmedden.  
  
It'll be aafa wither  
Aathegither.  
If ye hinnae a screw loose,  
Ye'll bide in the hoose

### Burns Supper Aftermath

ATHWC annually have a *Claik Night* at a local venue, with mince an' tatties regularly on the menu. Other clubs celebrate *Burn's Night* to remember The Bard. I came across this poem, which the reader can relate either to mince and tatties or to haggis and neeps Graham

#### Tae a F\*rt

Oh fit a sleekit horrible beastie  
Lurks in yer belly efter the feastie.  
Just as ye sit doon among yer kin  
There sterts to stir an enormous win'.  
  
The neeps and tatties and mushy peas  
Stert workin like a gentle breeze,  
But soon the puddin wi the sauncie face  
Will hae ye blawin aal ower the place.  
  
Nae matter fit the Hell ye dae,  
Aabody's gonnae hae tae pay.  
Even if ye try to stifle,  
It's like a bullet oot a rifle.  
  
Hud yer bum tight tae the chair,  
Tae try and stop the leakin air.  
Shift yersel fae cheek tae cheek.  
Pray tae God it disnae reek.  
  
But aa yer efforts go asunder.  
Oot it comes like clap o thunder,  
Ricochets aroon the room:  
Michty me, a sonic boom.  
  
Gweed almighty, it fairly reeks.  
Hope I huvnae sh\*t ma breeks.  
Tae the bog I'd better scurry.  
Ach, fit the Hell, it's nae ma worry.  
  
Aabody roon aboot me's chokin.  
Ane or twa are clearly bokin.  
I'll feel better for a while.  
Ah cannae help but raise a smile.  
  
"Wis him!" I shout wi accusin glower.  
Alas too late, he's jist keeled ower.  
"Ye dirty b\*gger," they shout and stare.  
A dinnae feel welcome ony mair.  
  
Where e're ye gae, let yer win' gae free,  
Sounds like just the job fur me.  
Fit a fuss at Rabbie's perty,  
Ower the sake o' ane wee f\*rtly.

**Lairig Ghru**

On 4 June 2006, ATHWC will traverse the Lairig Laogh from Speyside to Deeside. However, the word *Lairig* always reminds me of the following, written by a Northeast poet. Graham

**The Lairig Ghru**

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig.  
A gey bit ferlie, fegs!  
Faar twa-three Hielan tailors  
Tint waager, life and legs,  
And the quines o Rothiemurchus  
Cam traachlin owre wi eggs.

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig.  
A fearsome place forbye!  
Wi winter blizzard ragin  
An snaa-drifts aa the wye,  
Ye wish for owre Glen Lui  
An hame tae Inverey.

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig.  
Twid jeel yer verra sowl,  
The mist that comes doon yonner  
Owre Braeriach and Carn Tow!  
The mist that comes doon yonner  
Twid jeel yer verra sowl!

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig.  
Fan first I staacher'd owre,  
A hunner gowden eagles  
I thocht wid sit and glower!  
A hunner gowden eagles  
Fae Coylum tae Corroure.

Fient a gowden eagle!  
Fient a cleuk or claw!  
But a shochlin Glesga body  
Wi twa wheels rinnin slaw.  
Says I, 'My man, nae winner  
Ye sweir and pech and blaw!'

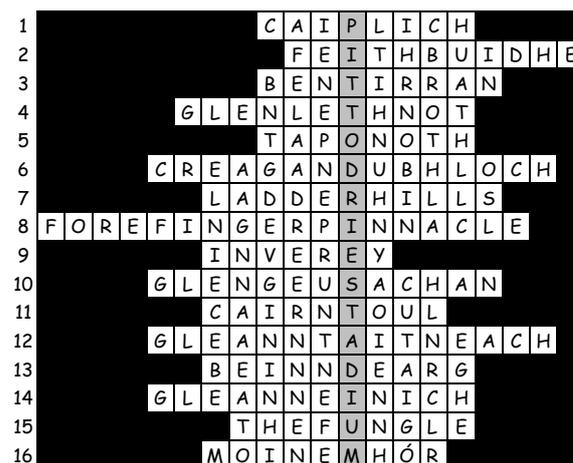
Yonner lies the Lairig!  
There, the Puils o Dee!  
A throwder place, nae canny,  
Wi aal moraine and scree!  
A throwder place, nae canny,  
For fuils like you and me!

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig  
Nae place for ony man!  
Faar muckle Hielan glaciers  
Cam howkin, Gweed kens fan!  
Cam howkin, ben the Lairig  
The aal Deil giein a han!

The Lairig Ghru! The Lairig  
Fare ye weel for aye.  
I've seen a hantle ferlies  
Fae Glen Einich tae Glen Ey.  
But the Lairig Ghru, the Lairig's  
A gey bit ferlie, gey!

**Autumn Crossword Solution**

We had to answer the sixteen clues below to reveal a local landmark in the grey shaded area. Graham



1. Vast stretch of peaty moors stretching from the Dorback Hills to Glen Avon.
2. This means *Yellow Bog Stream*.
3. Highest hill on the north side of Glen Clova.
4. This *Naked-Sided* glen lies between Glen Esk and Glen Clova.
5. Has a vitrified iron-age fort on its flat summit.
6. Here stands the highest continuous rock face in the Cairngorms.
7. These hills were known locally as *Monadh an Fharaidh*.
8. One of the most remarkable rock features to be seen above the Shelter Stone.
9. Last place in Aberdeenshire where Gaelic held out as everyday speech until about 1930.
10. Means *Glen of the Little Pinewood*.
11. At 4241ft, this mountain is by far the sharpest of the high Cairngorms.
12. This *Green* or *Delightful Valley* runs from Loch nan Eun to Glen Shee.
13. This *Red Hill* lies NE of Bruar Lodge.
14. This *Marshy Glen* is hemmed in between Feshie and Lairig Ghru.
15. This through route goes from Aboyne to Tarfside in Glen Esk.
16. The *Great Moss* of the Cairngorms.