

“Mountain Thyme”
Blairgowrie and District Hillwalking Club
Newsletter, January 2009.

Welcome to another edition of “Mountain Thyme” which we hope you enjoy, and if so, YOU may wish to contribute to the next edition. It is not always easy to communicate with everyone on a walk or on the coach, and so this might be the ideal way to get your message over to everyone in the Club.

The Presidents Comment.

May I begin by wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Most of you will be aware of my own personal ups and downs (and I don't mean on the hills) over the Autumn/winter season so far, which I am now well on the road to recuperation from. Having now had my Hip, Toe and Knee all successfully attended to, I now feel like the 'Bionic man' with all these spare parts in me. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Club who took the trouble to send cards and messages of encouragement during my recent time in hospital. Thank-you all.

However, I did manage to attend some of the events in the last six months, completing a low level walk at Creag Meagaidh in August, a walk up Ben Lomond in October and the Anniversary walk at Glen Shee (accompanied by my own personal nurse, Zallia) also in October. Although not involved with the walking, I did support the Blairgowrie Walking Festival by attending their Quiz night and their Ceilidh in Blairgowrie.

I was particularly pleased to welcome all the members who attended the very successful evening at The Spittal of Glen Shee in October where we celebrated our thirtieth anniversary with a meal and after dinner talk. It was also pleasing to meet former members who have not been out with the Club for some time.

I would also like to mention how grateful we are to Neil and Alice McLeod who organised a guided walk and barbeque around their home patch, Glogilvy near Glamis. Neil and Alice have a marvellous interest and knowledge of their local area and gave very interesting guided walks. Neil also deserves recognition for the extremely interesting and well received 'Club Night' talk he presented at the Royal Hotel in Blairgowrie in October, especially as it was only “dropped” on him at very short notice.

Although I did manage to enter the Photo competition in November, I am sorry to say my entries were not up to the required standard and alas never collected any of the awards. But as we all know it is not the winning, it's the taking part which really counts. I would however congratulate all who took part and in particular the winners. It was a big disappointment for me, that I was not able to see what I have been told was a magnificent effort by the members of this Club.

I have also heard from my *informants* that the unofficial Club member's get-together at Ullapool between Christmas and New Year was very successful with the most astonishing conditions and views imaginable being witnessed by all who attended.

Finally, I hope to see you all at the Club Ceilidh in Coupar Angus on 10th January, Good walking in 2009.

Graham.

Web site photo gallery.

Good news from James, our web master, the B.D.H.C. web site photo gallery is up and running again. Good quality pictures are required, which give an overall view of the Club activities. Pictures do not have to be from Club walks, but perhaps most should be. The easiest way to submit images is by e-mail directly to James, who will then upload them on to the web site.

Fund raising “Quiz night”.

Following the very successful evening last year, the Club is holding another QUIZ NIGHT at The Altamont Hotel, in Blairgowrie, on **FRIDAY 20th February 2009, starting at 7.30pm prompt.** PLEASE don't be put off if you think your knowledge of the hills is not up to Mastermind standard, as this **IS NOT** a hillwalking quiz. The questions have once again been set by an independent quiz master/mistress and will be of general knowledge. Teams of four are invited to attend and it is hoped that other organisations and clubs will again send along a team to take part. If you are a member of another club or organisation, perhaps you would like to enter a team with members from that club. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team, and there will also be a raffle on the night. (Raffle prizes gratefully received). Cost of entry will be £5.00 per team for the QUIZ. Please come along, bring your friends and have a bit of fun. **GOOD LUCK TO ALL TAKING PART.**

30th Anniversary Celebrations.

As most of you will be aware, the season 2008/2009 is the 30th Anniversary of the Blairgowrie and District Hillwalking Club. Several celebratory events have already taken place and were a great success. The only remaining event is the proposed trip to Grindlevald in July 2009. This ambitious project is open to anyone interested in walking/hiking/climbing or just being a tourist in this beautiful part of Switzerland. Details of what is on offer is available from our Past President, Jean Ruffhead, who will be only too pleased to help with ideas and travel options.

New Year Ceilidh.



This year the New Year Ceilidh will once again be held in the ENVERDALE HOUSE HOTEL in Coupar Angus on Saturday 10th January, starting at 7.30pm. In recent years this has proved to be a very popular event and it is hoped the same will be repeated again this year. The evening not only provides an entertaining night out but also brings in much needed finances which help to subsidise coach travel to our Club walks. Please come along, bring your dancing shoes and your friends, support the Club and enjoy yourself at the same time. Tickets priced £8.50 each are available from Nina, (01250 874301).

If anyone is interested Graham is arranging transport from the Alyth area to Coupar Angus, contact Graham directly for transport only.

Notes from the meet secretary.



Forthcoming walks.

Sunday 4th January 2009.

Leaving from Alyth at 8.45am and Blairgowrie at 9.00am.

A through walk from Collace village to Corsie Hill ending up at the Isle of Skye Hotel in Perth.

Sunday 25th January 2009.

Meal Garbh/Meall Greigh/Ben Lawers. Leaving Alyth at 7.45am and from Blairgowrie at 8.00am.

All grades of walk available starting and finishing in the Lawers village. The narrow road up to the Visitor Centre at Ben Lawers is no longer suitable for the size of coach we use on walk days.

Sunday 15th February 2009.

Broad Cairn from Glen Doll. Leaving from Alyth at 8.15am and from Blairgowrie at 8.00am.

All grades of walks available in what should be winter conditions. What better place to have a Frosty Morning start than walking along the banks of the South Esk heading for Bachnagairn.

Sunday 8th March 2009.

Northern Cairngorms. Leaving from Alyth at 7.15am and from Blairgowrie at 7.30am.

As usual all levels of walks will be available and if there is sufficient interest we will organise basic winter skills training for any interested member. This will be done on a voluntary basis and there is no requirement to take part if you have no desire to do so.

Sunday 29th March 2009.

Beinn Dubhcaraig from Dalrigh, (Tyndrum). Leaving from Alyth at 7.15am and Blairgowrie at 7.30am.

All levels of walk available around this area of stunning beauty under the shadow of Ben Lui.

Sunday 19th April 2009.

Mount Keen/Mount Battock/Glen Esk. Leaving from Alyth at 7.45am and from Blairgowrie at 7.30am.

The option of a Munro, a Corbett or a valley walk in this popular destination.

Sunday 10th May 2009.

Derry Cairngorm from the Linn of Dee. Leaving from Alyth at 7.15am and from Blairgowrie at 7.30am.

Although Derry Cairngorm is suggested here, there are endless options at high and low level at this most popular destination, hopefully with warm early summer conditions.

Club week-end meets 2009.

29th – 31st May. Inchree, Onich, which is just north of Ballachulish, with the option of so many hills in this area.

11th – 13th September 2009. Fort Augustus. A new venue for a Club weekend giving the opportunity to explore 'new ground'.

Please register your name with the meet secretary by the Thursday evening prior to the walk if you are intending to attend a meet. This is now very important with the cost of coach hire ever increasing. If there are insufficient names to justify a coach we will try and notify all members on the register for that walk by the Friday evening, allowing for alternative arrangements for transport to be put in place.

*Happy New-Year to all,
From the Editor.*



A recent picture taken of Stac Pollaidh, Loch Lurgainn and Loch Bad a' Ghail from the summit of Cul Beag in the Inverpolly National Nature Reserve.