

***“Mountain Thyme”***  
***Blairgowrie and District Hillwalking Club***  
***Newsletter, January 2008.***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our MEMBERS.**

**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.**

Since the June 2007 edition of “*Mountain Thyme*”, when I last talked about the marvellous walking conditions, we have been beset with two big problems; the weather and the lack of members to make the coach viable. We certainly can’t do much about the weather, so we just had to put up with it until October when warm, dry weather returned. However it seems it came too late to resolve our second difficulty. As a result, the coach had to be cancelled on two occasions and ran at such a loss on other meets that the current situation cannot be sustained. At the next AGM in March, we must discuss the future of transport to meets. The committee members are already preparing ideas to put forward. Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Possibly one of the wettest walks ever was when only 5 members turned out for the planned walk to Mount Battock, which was substituted with a walk in Glen Moy. The same day, some of the “C” group also braved the elements and settled for a more local walk. The September weekend at Ullapool was similarly marred by bad weather, which curtailed some of the planned routes, but at least the Ceilidh Place didn’t let us down for the Saturday evening meal, where the main party was joined by the “C” group returning from an excursion to the Outer Hebrides.

Because of insufficient numbers, and the considerable traffic congestion on the Forth Road Bridge, the planned walk to the Pentlands was substituted with a walk in Glen Lyon. What an inspired change of venue, with brilliant sunshine and tremendous views, we could not have wished for a better day in these Perthshire hills.

We had an interesting “Club night” in October, when our guest speaker, Alan Stewart, the Wildlife Liaison Officer attached to Tayside Police, gave an interesting and informative talk on wildlife crime. The evening concluded with Alan signing copies of his recently released book, “Wildlife Detective”. The November “Club night” was also successful with members showing slides from holidays and adventures both near to home and from abroad.

The last walk of 2007 was our Christmas walk, which fittingly ended at The Moorfield House Hotel. This was an opportunity for the Club to say farewell to our social meeting place for the last 15 years, which is closing around the festive period, to make way for housing. A presentation was made to the Hotel manager, Jim, in recognition of his personal service in catering for the Club and making us so welcome and comfortable at this congenial venue. Martin, in his own inimitable style, was just the man to show our appreciation to Jim.

The committee hope that you will all enjoy trying out the “new” alternative venues chosen for the forthcoming social events and hope that this will help us to decide on a new “meeting place”.

Good walking in 2008.

***Jean.***

## **New Vice President.**

Due to a change of conditions at work by his employers, Neale Lammond resigned from the post of Vice President in the Club last autumn. Neale thought that it would be fairer to allow a replacement to “settle in” as Vice President prior to being promoted to the position of President at the AGM in March. The committee wish to thank Neale for his pro-active role as a highly regarded committee member and Vice President and hope that he will still be able to join us when his work commitments allow.

At the Club night in November, Graham Robertson was co-opted as the new Vice President and is now “settling in” to his new office. Having previously served on the committee and held the position of Treasurer for a number of years, we are sure this is a role Graham will take in his stride, (provided, of course, that he takes it with his good leg!).

## **Web site photo gallery.**

Good news from James, our web master, the B.D.H.C. web site photo gallery will soon be up and running again. The previous link suffered from some serious “hacking” which James has now resolved, with a more secure link. We hope this proves as popular as the previous gallery and we thank James for his efforts.

Further details will be issued when they become available. Log on to the web site at [www.bdhc.org.uk](http://www.bdhc.org.uk) .

## **Fund raising “Quiz night”.**

The Club is holding a QUIZ NIGHT at The Altamount Hotel, in Blairgowrie, on **FRIDAY 22nd February 2008**, PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE 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 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 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 will be gratefully received). Cost of entry will be £5.00 per team for the QUIZ and £6.00 per head for STOVIES. Please come along, bring your friends and have a bit of fun. GOOD LUCK TO ALL TAKING PART.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.**

As most of you will be aware, the season 2008/2009 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blairgowrie and District Hillwalking Club. Several celebratory events are planned, and are listed below. Perhaps you would like to note the dates in your new diaries now and avoid disappointment later.

### 11<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Weekend meet at Betws y Coed, Snowdonia, Wales.

### 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Anniversary Dinner at the Spittal of Glen Shee.

### 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Anniversary walks at Deeside.

In addition to the “special events” listed above, there will also be the normal Club weekend meets, which will be;

### 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Tongue, Sutherland.

### 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

Morvich, Kintail.

## New Year Ceilidh.



This year the New Year Ceilidh will be held in the ENVERDALE HOUSE HOTEL in Coupar Angus on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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 still available from Nina.



## Forthcoming walks.

### 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008; The Ochil hills.

8.15am from Alyth, and 8.30 am from Wellmeadow.

The “A” and “B” walks will both be through walks, starting at Glenhead Farm in Gleneagles and ending in Tillicoultry.

The “C” walk will be a shorter through walk from Dollar to Tillicoultry.

### 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008; Glen Prosen/Glen Clova.

8.00am from Wellmeadow and 8.15 am from Alyth.

The “A” walk starts at Dykehead and follows high ground via the Airlie Memorial Tower to Clova Hotel.

The “B” walk starts in Glen Doll and heads to Clova Hotel via Driesh.

The “C” walk follows the Ministers Path from Prosen to Clova. Or alternatively a circuit of Loch Brandy.

### 9<sup>th</sup> March 2008; GlenShee (Cairnwell).

7.45am from Alyth, and 8.00am from Wellmeadow.

The “A” walk takes in Carn an Tuirc and Glas Maol finishing at the Cairnwell car park.

The “B” walk starts and finishes at the Cairnwell car park and takes in a circuit of Carn a’ Gheoidh.

The “C” walk starts at the Spittal and heads up to Glen Lochsie Lodge and returns to the Spittal.

### 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008; Ben Lomond.

7.15 am from Alyth, and 7.30am from Wellmeadow.

### 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008; Bridge of Orchy.

7.15 am from Alyth, and 7.30 am from Wellmeadow.

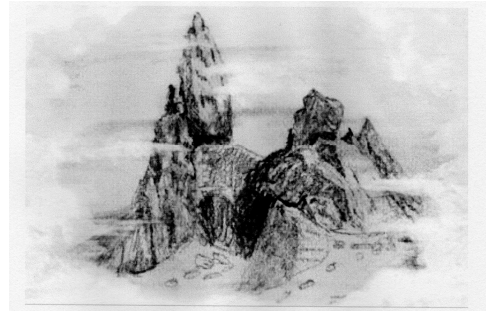
### 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008; Glenmore (Aviemore) to Linn of Dee, (through walk).

6.45 am from Alyth, and 7.00 am from Wellmeadow.

Please register your name with the meet secretary by the Thursday evening prior to the walk if you are intending to attend the 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.

## Torrents in Trotternish

After a glorious few days in Harris to celebrate yet another “Big 0” for Rhoda, (big beaches, wonderful ridge walks, cliff walks, and lots of birds) Loaning Tours stopped off in Skye to investigate the Trotternish Ridge. We stayed at Uig YH, with a superb view over Uig Bay and the Ferry Terminal. The day dawned cloudy and misty, but we set off none the less – Rhoda, Jane, Gesa, Roddy and Rob. We left Roddy’s car at Glenuachdarach in Glen Hinnisdale on the west side of the ridge, and travelled round via Portree to the car park for The Storr – just past Loch Leathan. The mist was low and



wet, and after sitting in the car for a while Gesa phoned a contact at the Edinburgh Flying Club for a weather forecast – it would clear, eventually! Undaunted we decided to climb up to The Old Man of Storr and take it from there. The climb through the trees was misty and atmospheric until The Old Man loomed out of the mist. We could just see the top. The superb view along the ridge was somehow missing.

As it was not actually raining we climbed steadily up a good path and after a welcome break in the corrie reached The Storr (719 m). It was now raining steadily. For some reason, which I cannot now remember we decided to continue along the ridge, now in thick cloud, and descended to the Bealach a’ Chuirn for a damp lunch, and then via Harteval, Sgurr a’ Mhalaidh and Baca Ruadha to the bealach before Creag a’ Lain. We did get occasional views of the steep cliffs and mist filled corries to the east, giving a taste of what a splendid ridge walk it would be on a good day! However the rain continued to fall quite heavily. We contoured SW round the ridge of Creag a’ Lain and then North into Coire Iomhair, keeping quite high up the hill, aware that there were two large streams to cross.

The first of these, the Lon Mhic Ibheir was quite reasonable and we crossed it with a bit of care, so we continued, descending slightly, towards the Lon Coire Chaiplin. As we approached the roar of the water got louder and louder until we were confronted with a raging torrent at least as wide as Cargill’s Leap.

We scanned the map again. There was no bridge marked. We were making plans for a long detour up stream until we could cross. At this point the mist cleared and we could see Roddy’s car beckoning across the torrent barely 1km away.

In the gloom we could just pick out what seemed like a bridge where the two streams met. Steamed up binoculars did not help,

but we eventually decided there was something and descended. Spirits lifted as we realised there was an industrial walkway about 1m wide across the torrent, and in good spirits we tramped across the boggy farmland, to the amazement of the sheep, to reach the car.

Any lessons learned? Well it would have been safer to have continued along the ridge past the final stream before descending, despite the fact that we were tiring. It would have been even safer to descend from The Storr back to the start point – but that would have been feeble wouldn’t it!



It'll only mean a ten mile detour from here .....

Text: Rob; Illustrations: Gesa