

In this issue -

- President's Column
- Dave Murison – An Appreciation
- Weekend Meets 2001/2
- Foreign Memories
- COMEBACK!!!!
- Brittany Coast hit Hard
- REASONS
- Transport for Club Walks
- Photo Competition
- For Sale

On the subject of Whitehaugh, and to be fair to everyone, a postal vote has been sent to all members, in order for a final decision to be made

Please don't leave it all for the committee to decide, after all it is your club as well, and by participating in the choice of walk you would like to do, will hopefully get you out on the hills at the Day Meets.

Due to other responsibilities Colin has decided to relinquish the Meet Secretaries post. On behalf of all the committee, Colin, I would like to say a big thank-you for all your time and hard work. You have led many of us on the hill, up to the tops and back safe and sound. Frank has kindly offered to fill Colin's boots, and we look forward to many happy days with him.

Peter is taking Frank's place as Press Secretary. Good reports will come from Peter as they did from Frank.

Bob is taking over as hut custodian to replace Bill MacDonald. Thank you Bill, for all the work and energy spent by you on Whitehaugh in the past.

My grateful thanks goes to all committee members, and all those who give their support in helping to keep the club going on. I realise we have lots of competition from other areas who also do hillwalking, but FDHWC goes back many years, and with all of your combined support, let's hope we can keep it going.

All of the committee hopes to see more members out on the hills. Happy and safe walking to all.

President's Column

When I started to write this, it was with a degree of shock, that I realised I have been in the saddle for just over a year. The year has simply disappeared. Is it the pace of life or age?

The past year has given us quite a few hurdles to overcome in particular the Foot and Mouth restrictions. On this note, I would like to thank members for being responsible, and staying off the hills. I know this has been a hardship for many, and getting back in to the stride again won't be easy. Let us hope, as the year goes on, on whether or not we retain or abandon it. The photographs taken by Bob Railton illustrated that Whitehaugh was in a serious state of disrepair.

ETTA

Dave Muirison – An Appreciation by John Norrie

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of the death of club member Dave Muirison. I was privileged to be asked by the family to read at the funeral service, an appreciation of Dave by one of his long-standing hill-going friends. However as it didn't contain anything of Dave's involvement in the club, I added a few memories of him. As the family has the original, I'm writing this from memory.

Dave was a member of the Mountain Bothies Association, the John Muir Trust and the Forfar and District Hill-Walking Club. Because of the shift system that he had to work, Dave couldn't attend club meets as often as he would have liked, despite that he put a lot of effort and humour into the club activities.

When I was looking for a successor to myself as Club Hut Custodian, I immediately thought of Dave - for 3 reasons.

1. With his activities within the M.B.A. and his knowledge with the bothy system, he would know how a Club Hut should function.
2. He had the personality to organise work parties and
3. Like all good Hut Custodians,

we will be able to gain more access to the hills.

We held our AGM on Wednesday 18th April 2001 with a good attendance present. Two controversial points had to be discussed.

- a) The lack of numbers on day meets to substantiate having a bus
- b) Whitehaugh

The majority of those present voted to use cars for day meets, and a bus for through walks, three per year. Time will tell if the numbers increase when using cars.

We are always looking for your suggestions for Day Meets, and ideas for the Winter Programme.

he had the ability to acquire things, be it metal for a gate post, or metal for the stick barrow, and he had access to a truck (very valuable). Happily for the club at the time, he accepted the post.

During a typical club Halloween party at Whitehaugh, Dave suddenly donned his waterproof jacket and trousers and when asked where was he going, handed me his specs and replied I'm "dookin for aiples" and plunged his head in the bathfull of cold water and apples.

A memorial to Dave already exists in the Glen, it takes the form of a heavy metal gate post at the entrance to Whitehaugh. Dave made it and Neil Redford and I cemented it in, a few carelessly driven cars have been damaged by it, but, the post still stands.

The large attendance at Dave's funeral showed the high regard everyone had for him. A collection taken at the service was donated to the John Muir Trust and Tayside Mountain Rescue Association. It is hoped that a specific piece of rescue equipment will be bought in memory of Dave.

At his own request Dave's ashes will be scattered on Dreish overlooking the Glen.

John Norrie

** Humour: - For an appreciation of Dave's sense of humour, read some of his contributions to past editions of the club newsletter.

WEEKEND MEETS
2001/2002

MOIDART - ONICH 21 -23
September 2001
(2 nights)

Originally arranged for March but postponed to the new dates above because of Foot & Mouth outbreak. 12 places have again been reserved at the Alex McIntyre Memorial Hut and all the members who booked for the March dates will have their booking carried over for September. Any member who cannot make the new dates should arrange to contact Roy who will arrange for their money to be refunded or put toward a future weekend. Two places are still available so contact Roy ASAP if interested (£7 deposit)

TORRIDON 19-21 October
2001 (2 nights)

Roy has booked the Torridon Youth Hostel, which is situated at the head of Upper Loch Torridon at the East end of the Village. Total cost of the weekend accommodation is £17.50 per person including bed linen. Members should book with Roy ASAP with a £10 deposit. The balance would then be due by Sept 5 2001.

TULLOCH March 22 - 24
2002 (2 nights)

Roy has booked Station Lodge at the old Tulloch Station near Roy Bridge. A well-equipped hostel, which can offer, licensed evening meals. Full details in next newsletter.

KNOYDART MAY 3-6 2002
(3 nights)

Another weekend called off because of Foot & Mouth and re-arranged for the above dates. All bookings and monies will be carried over for the new dates. Any member who cannot manage on the new dates should contact Roy and money will be refunded

SKYE JUNE 7-9 2002
(2 nights)

Skycwalker Independent Hostel -Full details in December newsletter.

WEEKEND NOTES:

1. Deposits for weekend meets should be sent to Roy with cheques made payable to Forfar and District Hillwalking Club.

2. Roy can be contacted at:
Nether Middleton
GLAMIS

FORFAR DD8 1UP
Tel: 01307 840271
Mobile: 0771 9700628
e-mail: roy.rennie@lineone.net

Mallorca 2000- Not
the only one you know !

Judging by the comments, photographs and slide presentation, the Club Meet to Mallorca was a great success, but who now is aware of a Club Meet to St Anton, Austria July 1976 (or was it 1977 ?) Ten members attended, travelled all the way by train from Arbroath, couldn't get on the hill for two days because of snow, it rained at times, and the sun shone, among the main ascents were -

Valluga 2811m or 9135ft
Horr Reifler 3160m or 10,270ft
Kuchenspitze 3170m or 10,302ft

Some ridges were interesting in the rain, and the local social scene was brilliant.

- If you have any further FOREIGN ditties, please let me know -- Ed.

COMEBACK!!

The "FOOT and MOUTH" had everyone talking

But it's been more of a pain, as it's stopped us from walking

On Sunday 21st we drove to the Linn of Dee

But only 10 members was all I could see

The Army was there, doing their rounds

To say Ben MacDui was still out of bounds

But in good spirits we went on our way chatting

Our enthusiasm to get out again, was definitely not lacking

We climbed in low cloud, and ran in the snow

We enjoyed our day out, as we were all in a glow

It was a pity that at the end of the day There's not enough members out, is all I will say

By the time this has gone to press, we will have walked May and June

And if you have not been out yet, please **"Come back Soon"**

Nan Hargreaves

Brittany Coast
hit hard

Dear Members and Friends Today I've just got the news that we all want to hear. The Glens are open for walkers! Hourra!! Excuse my French but I am wearing my French Beret to share with you some not so good news for Breton eroded, chewed and battered by so much rain last autumn and winter that the coastal paths have disappeared! The paths are as loved by locals and visitors as the Glens are by ourselves. I was born and brought up on the coast of Brittany and so I feel a little emotional when I hear that it is not doing so well. Before the heavy rains, it was yet another oil slick spoiling the loveliest beaches and ruining people's businesses but worse, it affects people in their hearts and souls. The coast is to Brittany what the hills are to Scotland: their one hallmark! I came to live in Scotland 25 years ago and gradually the love of the hills has found its place in my heart. Aren't we the lucky ones to have escaped the floods let alone Foot & Mouth! Vive l'Ecosse!!
A bientot j'espere.

Anne-Marie Robertson

REASONS
- To walk or not to
walk

The Bad

Ugh!! 5:30 (morning not night), am I daft rising at this time to go hill walking? It's freezing cold, pouring rain, snowing and can't see a thing for thick mist. 8.00am reach Forfar, grab a seat on bus. Will I be sick today?? Reach destination munch some breakfast and set out with full gear on. Waterproofs, coat, hat gloves and a rucksack that weighs a ton. Frozen hands, soaking wet. (Pity we weren't all like men, relief would be so easy)

The Good

Beautiful sunny morning, great to be alive. Weather just perfect. Meet up with great friends in Forfar and divide up into cars. Good day for the hills, will shorts be warm enough? Magnificent views, can I really see Arran, Mull and Ben Nevis. What laughter and fun, is that the moon shining? Doesn't matter that the sweat is dripping off my nose because everything is worth the effort to reach the top. Can I really walk up or down that ice with my crampons on? Yes such confidence, great help and encouragement from everyone. Did I really come down that steep face. Great fun sliding and running down the snow.

At last back to the cars, which pub are we going to? Relax with a pint, ice cream or chips and listen to everyone's tales and experiences. Well worth joining Forfar and District Hill-Walking Club and not forgetting the Wednesday night talks and social evenings with weekend outings a bonus.

Baroness Baird

Cost of Transport Using Cars

At the AGM a decision was made to use cars as the main mode of transportation, with buses being restricted to 3 times per year and being specifically for through walks. This decision came about due to the decreasing numbers of members using scheduled buses for day meets. At the last committee meeting the subject of agreeing the cost of using cars was discussed. A figure of £5 per person for local walks and £8 per person for walks outwith this area was agreed as a good general guide. Payment is to be handed to an appointed person (usually Ray Campbell as Treasurer) with the gathered total being divided by the number of cars on the day. This will ensure that each driver receives the same remuneration for using his or her car, Irrespective of two or three passengers travelling.

Photo Competition

At this years December club night the photographic competition will be as follows:

Two categories will be

- (a) Best UK Photograph or slide
- (b) Best Foreign Photograph or Slide

Judging will be by ballot, voted by members on the night.

Regards Peter

FOR SALE

Gelert 45 Litre

Extreme rucksac in perfect condition - ex demonstration model
£25
Contact John Norrie.

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Please write early and send your articles to: The Editor -

Angus Spence
5 Muirlands Court
Lunanhead
FORFAR
DD8 3NE

Tel: 01307 465644

e-mail: angusspence@totalise.co.uk

Stop Press

The Tayside Mountain Rescue Sponsored Walk, which was scheduled for Sunday June 10th has been moved forward to Sunday July 8th, due to foot and mouth restrictions. The plan (info from John Norrie) is to walk the Monega path from Glenisla to Glenshee. For those of you who usually take part, communication via post will follow.

Contact

Alfie Ingram on 01382 668193