



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 42 December 2013

www.fdhwc.org.uk

1963- 2013

President's Column

Hello all. Firstly, may I wish a Happy New Year to everyone. Please accept my apologies for the late publication of this newsletter. It should have been out by Christmas, but alas there was too much to do. Sorry!

Well that was it. The 50th anniversary came and went with a bang. I think it was a great success. Thank you to all who were involved in its organisation – the committee and special thanks to Mel and the extra committee of Aileen, Debbie, Linda and Neil. See later for special articles.

Recently in Forfar's Tesco, Linda and I bumped into an ex-member from some years ago, Geoffrey Mainprize. He was a great armchair walker. By that, I mean he studied deeply and "exercised" many walks from the comfort of his armchair. Now, due to inaction through injury, I find myself becoming an armchair walker too. It has much to be recommended, warm, and comfortable; a beer by your side, football scores on the TV, the rattle of rain on the window, spread the map out on your knees..... Well, it is good – I'd still prefer to be out there.... But my book on the mountains of North Wales looks good – got me scrambling about on my armchair.

The meet calendar and meetings/events look good for the coming spring/summer season.

Hope to see you all shortly at the high tea meet.

Best Wishes,

Colin,
President

P.S. It's traditional to give you my favourite meet of the year – February 2013 - Cairngorm weekend – Sunday - Carn an Fhreiceadain near Kingussie. Photograph of the year? We'll see.

CHANGE OF DATE – JUNE DAY MEET

The committee has agreed to alter the date of the June day meet to avoid a clash with the Angus Glens Walking Festival. The new date is Sunday 15th June. Please alter your printed calendars.

High Tea Meet

Sunday 19^h January

This meet will be a crossing of the Wirrens, a range of hills that lies between Glen Lethnot and Glen Esk, highest point 678m. Direction of walking will depend on the wind direction on the day. The meet is by bus, leaving from Sauchieburn Hotel, Luthermuir at 10:00. High tea will be taken at the Sauchieburn Hotel at 17:00. Please contact the meet secretary if you require a bus seat and/or are coming for high tea. If coming for high tea, please state your choice of main course to Ray by Wednesday 15th January.

Menu - £14

- Deep fried breaded haddock
- Beef and bacon pie
- Chicken breast in a mushroom sauce
- Beef olives with an oatmeal stuffing
- Salmon with sweet chilli dressing
- Cheese and potato pie

All served with fresh vegetables of the day, chips and potatoes.

Followed by homemade cakes and scones with clotted cream and jam, tea and coffee.

'Far I wi noo' plaque - 2013

Remember to note any worthy events for the "incident of the year". Previous winners are
2008 - "Sinclair's Leap"
2009 - Ray's "I may be gone some time"
2010 - Alec's "Dangle on the Inn Pinn"
2011 - Scott's "Am I supposed to be tied onto this?"
2012- Elaine's "Don't wade for me"

Please forward news of any worthy incident to a committee member. The Cairngorm Weekend "head-planting" is certainly one of the top incidents of the year. The vote and presentation will take place at the AGM on Monday 3rd March.

Photographic Competition

The club's annual photographic competition will be held after the open meeting on Monday February 3rd 2014. For the 6th year running, the judge is Graham Wilkinson from Carnoustie Camera Club.

Entries are to be submitted by Saturday 25th January. Note that changes to the rules were made at the AGM in March 2013, allowing entries to be in purely digital format. Of course, prints are still acceptable too. Please send/email entries to colin.sinclair@btinternet.com. If sending images, make sure you send at full resolution. You may need to send one at a time. Make sure your emails say "1 of 5" etc. Each entrant is allowed a maximum of 5 photographs, taken in the last 12 months. For full rules and naming guidelines for prints and images, see the rules at the end of the constitution. http://www.fdhwc.org.uk/docs/fdhwc_constituton_2013.pdf

If entering a print (rather than a digital image), Graham would also like to receive a digital image or negative, in order to help with his summary and to suggest any improvements to the photographs.

Au Revoir

Yves Soissons, from France (who was out a few times during the summer/autumn) has left the area. He sends good wishes to all of the members.

Yves is the 4th French person to be involved with the club. Others were Marie-Claire Cornillet (1981-82), Xavier Quentin (2004-05), Anne-Marie Robertson (1998-2009)

Forthcoming Open meetings

- January 13th – Willie Mather, "Travels of a Fermer wi' a Bunnet"
- February 3rd – Graham Wilkinson. Annual photographic competition.
- March 3rd – AGM followed by "The Unknown! (Part 2)"
- April 7th - Open Meeting, followed by "Members' Night". Bring 10 photos and talk about them! Strict time limits this year!
- May 12th Outdoor Meeting - Boules & Girds Championships, Carnoustie Boules rink
- June 2nd Outdoor Meeting – Geocaching revisited. Meet in Myre car park.

Weekend Meets **Spring/Summer 2014**

February	Corran
March	Torridon
May	Knoydart (the wild side)
June	Affric/Cannich

The booking form will be available soon on the web site.

Reluctant Hero x 2?

by Bob Railton

As I was unable to commit to the main 50th Anniversary walk I decided to walk up to Bachnagairn to meet up with the main party at the bridge, however approaching the forest, I was aware of 2 dogs which appeared to be either lost or in some sort of trouble as they were monition less on the path. On turning the bend I came across a woman in distress, apparently while walking down from the bridge the dogs (one of which was on a long lead) and the other was off the leash, the dogs had somehow managed to get wrapped around her legs and brought her down rather heavily and she thought she had sustained a very heavy sprained right ankle. At first she insisted on me continuing my walk. However I told her I wouldn't leave and would walk her back to Glen Doll. It became clear that this was not going to be straight forward so I gave her my walking poles and a hot drink. At this time a male walker passed and I asked him to go to the Ranger centre and tell Neil, the Ranger, what had happened and would he come up with the Land Rover. It took about 2 hours before Neil was able to get the Land Rover over the fast flowing river near the wooden bridge. This was a site for sore eyes as I was aware that the injury was causing some considerable stress. On the way down I was able to rescue Jerry's hat. What a day.

The lady subsequently sent an email to the club thanking us for our help and informed us that she had in fact broken her Fibula bone and would be off her work for about six weeks.

Junior Achiever

It is traditional in the club that youngsters are presented with a copy of Munro's Tables after climbing 50 Munros. The last presentations were held in 1997 to a young Scott MacDonald and a young David Sinclair (both 11 at the time). Once more we have a youngster who has achieved these 50 Munros. Connor Sangster was presented with a copy of the SMC "The Munros" at the Anniversary Ceilidh. Well done, Connor.

Open Meetings Reports

August 2013 – An outdoor meeting on top of the Airlie Tower, with cakes and tea/coffee provided by Aileen and Carolyn. An anniversary photograph was snapped. More later.

September 2013 Open meeting followed by a presentation by Fiona Mackenzie of the John Muir Trust.

October 2013 – Special 40th anniversary open meeting. More later.

November 2013– Ray and Carolyn were quiz master as teams fought for the annual chocolate orange prize. The team consisting of the President, Willie and Claire won. They did eventually share out the chocolate.

December 2013 – David Sinclair gave an excellent presentation on his recent trip to Greenland to tackle the “Arctic Circle Trail” or “How to spend your summer holidays in a very cold place”.

Meet Reports

June – December 2013

21-23 June 2013

Glen Carron weekend

A number of call-offs reduced attendance at this weekend to three Munro-baggers and an explorer. The base was Ledgowan Hotel Bunkhouse, Achnasheen. As we had originally booked for ten, the foursome found enough space to allocate one entire end of the accommodation to an alleged snorer. The three Munro-baggers planned to cycle in the long track from Craig to Glenuaig Lodge and climb Maoile Lunndaigh but bike problems forced a change of plan and the nearer Munros of Sgurr Choinich and Sgurr a’ Chaorachain were climbed instead. The explorer was in the same area, continuing to the Bealach Bhearnais and climbing Beinn Tharsuin and Sgurr na Feartaig. Rain threatened all morning before a deluge in the afternoon. The walkers settled for one day’s wet walking and headed for home on Sunday.

7 July 2013

Mystery Meet

Beinn Mheadhonach, 901m, Blair Atholl was revealed as the destination of the mystery meet. Ten members attended.

18 August 2013

Garva Bridge

Two walks were planned for this meet. Five walkers chose a circular route over Geal Charn while another six opted for Meall na h’Aisre. Although the latter walk involved a smaller climb and covered a similar distance, the terrain was rough and it took two hours longer than scheduled, much to the consternation of the

waiting Munro-baggers. Conclusion: Munro-bagging is simple compared to exploring!

25 August 2013

Dreish from Glen Prosen

Glen Quoich to Glen Derry via Clais Fhearnaig in the Cairngorms was the original plan for this social meet. The forecast was not good and only three members turned up. They decided to change the walk to something closer at hand and headed for Glen Prosen and the summit of Dreish. Two strange phenomena were witnessed at the summit. Firstly, the cairn was alive with wasps. This strange occurrence was also witnessed by Robin Howie, who mentioned it in his column in Scotland on Sunday. The second strange occurrence was observing the Treasurer jogging towards us at the summit.

7-8 September 2013.

Derry Lodge Camp

This was the second overnight “wild camping” meet of the year. The weather dampened enthusiasm and only three camped overnight at Derry Lodge. The following day saw them enjoying a successful walk over the Devil’s Point, Cairn Toul and Angel’s Peak.

20-22 September 2013

Invergarry

Thirteen members gathered for this weekend meet at the comfortable hostel at Mandally, where we had stayed several years before. Three different groups set off on the Saturday for Meall na Teanga/Sron a Choire Garbh at Loch Lochy, Sgurr Mor in Glen Dessary and Meall a’ Phubail in Glen Loy. The forecast wet weather thankfully held off until late in the day. Sunday saw the entire west of the country shrouded in cloud and rain and only one member ventured on to the hills, a bit further east at Loch Rannoch. The other members went home to enjoy some east coast sunshine.

29 September 2013

Glen Moy to Glen Clova

The route was changed slightly to allow the ten walkers to do a circular route in Glen Ogil rather than a linear route to Glen Clova. Our local farmer member was there to provide some interesting information on land use as we walked over the tops of Auld Darkney and Toardy Hill. The route across the top of Hill of Glansie was cut short as the cloud was rolling in by this time and a descent was made to Glen Ogil Reservoir.

26 October 2013

Capel Mounth – 50th Anniversary Walk

Twenty-three members, ex-members and guests took part in a re-enactment of the first club meet in 1963. It was good to see so many people with present and past affiliations with the club turning out, some of whom had travelled a long way or were returning after many years away. The route needs no introduction to

anyone connected with the club, starting at Glen Clova and following the Capel Mounth to Loch Muick, following the shores of the loch before climbing steeply to Sandy Hillock and returning by Bachnagairn. Several other members met the main party at Bachnagairn, including Willie Milne, the first President of the club. The rain kindly waited until we finished the walk and then came down with a vengeance but this did little to dampen spirits at a very enjoyable evening in the Glen Clova Hotel, where an excellent meal was followed by an interesting and thought-provoking speech by the President on the history of the Club. Several members stayed overnight at the hotel bunkhouse.

10 November 2013

Ben Challum

Ten members enjoyed the first clear frosty day of winter. A quick ascent was made from Kirkton Farm near Crianlarich, progress near the top being slowed by deep fresh snow. The clear air afforded excellent views from the top. Return was by the same route.

15-17 November 2013

Aultguish

Another weekend with thirteen members and guests and another weekend with an unpromising weather forecast. Is anyone superstitious? Saturday proved to be very windy, and ultimately very wet, and the main party which set off for the Fannichs did not reach the main ridge before being blown off their feet, and so they turned back. Four explorers meanwhile made good progress along a good low-level track where they were sheltered from the wind. Two walkers turned back while two reached the summit of Beinn a' Caisteal in very blustery conditions. Full use was made of the drying room overnight and Sunday saw various groups on Ben Wyvis, Little Wyvis and Fionn Bheinn in improving conditions.

8 December 2013

Farragon Hill

Six members turned up on another day of wet, windy conditions. Any intentions of doing a high-level through walk over Meall Tairneachan and Farragon Hill were quickly abandoned and the walkers settled for the relatively straightforward walk up Farragon Hill from the banks of the Tay to the south. The walk was not so straightforward at the start as the walkers frequently had the maps out as they tried to find a way through the maze of estate roads before reaching the open hillside. Although the walk started in steady rain, the weather brightened up and the cloud stayed just clear of the top, although neighbouring Schiehallion remained shrouded in mist all day. The forecast wind made its presence felt only at the very top so the traditional lunch stop had to be held a few hundred metres beyond the summit. A different track was taken on the way out and the walkers came across a peculiar "viewing platform" about

ten feet high with two seats supported on a metal frame. Explanations as to its purpose would be most welcome.

27 December Christmas Meet

Cancelled due to lack of interest and very poor weather forecast.

2 January New Year Meet

The planned Christmas meet, a week later! Craig Mellon – ten members attended. There was lots of snow on top and lots of running water, obviously melting fast. Cloud low, but cleared now and then. Afterwards, a pint was taken at the Clova Hotel.

The Falls of Drumly Harry

by Bob Railton

Those of you who were on the last social walk up Glen Ogil may remember Willie Mather talking about the spectacular falls of Drumly Harry. I was able to contact Willie having won the first prize in the Anniversary raffle of a Bag of Sprouts (Best sprouts in Angus, Willie) I arranged a visit and Willie had also arranged for his son Scott to meet me and take me to the Falls. Scott arrived on his Quad Bike and I was instructed to follow him along the single track road at 40 miles an hour! Once we had stopped I told Scott that I thought that he should be diving in the Grand Prix F1 races to which Scott replied that they were too slow!

Sitting side saddle on the Quad bike Scott bounced me across the field, where we jumped the fence and walked down the steep embankment to the falls. At this point I should advise that no one should do this on their own as it would be helpful if a piece of rope was available to lower oneself down.

The Falls of Drumly Harry are to be found on the Noran Water a tributary of the South Esk at NO 452 624, the name is thought to derive from the Gaelic which means Turbulent and as for Harry there's no explanation.

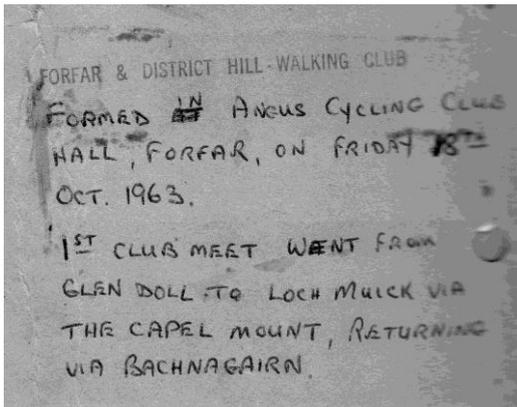
The falls themselves consist of 2 separate elements giving a height of 10 meters with a plunge pool at the bottom known as the Douf Hole apparently named after the sound you make when you plunge in!

I would suggest this would make really good social walk with the club and we could take the rope so everyone is safe or we could walk up the river from the bridge further down stream.

Thanks to Willie and Scott for a memorable day out.

1963 - Earliest documents

This note was taken from press book number 1, giving the date of the formation of the club as 18th October 1963.



Underneath, it was a report of the first meeting. Secretary is Ian Reith. Ian attended our open meeting on 14th October, as part of the 50th events. Also mentioned as press secretary is Willie Milne. Willie was out at our anniversary walk, as part of the group that met the main party at Bachnagairn. Willie also cut the anniversary cake at the dinner.



That first meet took place on Sunday 1963. Unfortunately, there is no press report of the meet in our archives. Of course, that walk has been repeated on various anniversary occasions – 10th, 21st, 25th, 40th, and of course on the 50th anniversary on Saturday 26th October 2013.

Meet number 2

There are details of the 2nd meet which occurred on Sunday 15th December 1963. Sounds like it was a dreich day – some things never change.



16th May 1964 – Lochnagar

This is a lovely photograph of members of the club going on a meet and one of the infamous Davidson's buses (with Bob Davidson wearing the bunnet)



The 50th Anniversary

We couldn't let the 50th anniversary of the club go by without commemorating it and celebrating in some way. A series of events was planned by the committee and helped by the extended committee of Aileen, Debbie, Linda and Neil, headed up by Mel. This is a brief summary of these events.

Monday 12th August

This was an **evening outdoor meeting** whose theme was a walk to the Airlie Monument and a chance to climb to the top, where a picnic was provided by Aileen and Carolyn. Prior to the walk, a special photo session with a press photographer was undertaken – with John Norrie dressed in old gear. This photograph spawned a series of articles in various local newspapers to promote our anniversary.

September

Anniversary posters went up at various high-profile sites in Angus

Monday 14th October

An **Open Meeting followed by "anniversary things"**. There was a large attendance of both current and former members. Former members were Ian Reith (a founder member and a member of the first committee. 1963-1989), Bob Mitchell (1971-1984), Jean Jaffray (secretary 1980-1983), Sheena Milne (1977-1988) and Lexie Lumsden (1979-1987). This meeting was held almost 50 years to the day after the very first club meeting on Friday 18th October 1963.

Extracts from the first press book were read and displayed, followed by slides from the president (1981-1986 era) and The Norries (1966-2006).

Saturday 26th October - Anniversary Walk

The main walk followed the route of the club's first ever walk from Glen Doll, over the Capel Mounth to Loch Muick, returning by the Streak of Lightning to Sandy Hillocks and Bachnagairn. 23 members took part. A group of 6 members and former members made their way up to Bachnagairn to meet up with the main group. A smaller group completed a shorter walk further

Saturday 26th October - Anniversary Dinner

The anniversary dinner followed in the Clova Hotel - 41 members and former members attended. An excellent meal was followed by a speech by the president, during which Jim Nicol (ex president) gave explained the origins of "Far I wi noo". A short slide show by Mel ended the evening.

Founder member Willie Milne cut the very decorative anniversary cake. A small group stayed overnight in the Clova bunkhouse.

Former members attending included Gill Grewar (1967-1974), Susan Grieve (1969-1977), Willie Milne (1963-1993), Angus & Linda Spence (1988-2007).

Saturday 2nd November

Anniversary Ceilidh was held in the Links Hotel, Montrose. Almost 100 people (members, former members and guests) attended. Former members included Dave & Dorothy Adam (1976-2010), Linda & Angus Spence, Claire Duncan (now Ross) (1989-2001), John Stephen (1994-2008).

It was an excellent night. The extended committee organised a fantastic band (Joyce Ramsay), decoration (bunting, printed balloons, banners) and had continuous slide show in one corner with photos old and new. Many former members were able to pick themselves out in the photos.

We were joined by guests from the Carn Dearg, Grampian and Friockheim clubs. We received many donations of raffle prizes (thank you to all). The successful raffle raised money for Tayside Mountain Rescue Association, John Muir Trust and Mountain Bothies Association.

October to December Exhibition

Mel put together an exhibition of photographs. Many had been rescued from the walls of White Haugh many years ago and dug out of the club archives. The exhibition appeared in the Forfar Library for a while, then in Forfar Loch Ranger Centre.

29th – 30th November

Dundee Mountain Film Festival

The club took a stall at the festival really to celebrate our anniversary. We also had various hand-outs for any folk interested in finding out more about the club. The stall was manned over the two days by the committee helped Ian and Neil. At least 2 ex-members proudly found their names of the club's list of members' banners. Several seemed keen to join, but we had no definite takers. Some of committee and hangers-on succumbed to new Paramo jackets from our C n Do neighbours!

October – ongoing Special Clothing

As part of the club's anniversary celebrations we are offering clothing to celebrate the occasion. Club members Debbie Kenward and Brian Findleton are taking all orders directly and their contact email is on the order form (see www.fdhwc.org.uk).

They are very flexible about colours and sizing and the attached logos are only an indication of what is available. All logos will also show the club dates "1963-2013".

The prices include a small mark up in price of no more than one pound which shall be donated to the same charities as the ceilidh raffle.

February 2014

The Scottish Mountaineer Magazine

Look out for a special article about the club with photos in the next Mountaineering Council of Scotland magazine, to be published in February.

Some Anniversary Photographs

The walk, Saturday 26th October 2013



Rita & John Norrie?



Airlie Monument. Monday 12th August 2013



Dinner Sat 26th October 2013



Alec & Elaine



Bachnagairn Sat 26th October 2013



Presidents -1967 to the present (no Etta)



2003-2013

by the president

Newsletter 24 contains a special article covering the first 40 years of the club. This can be viewed at www.fdhwc.org.uk/newsletters/nl24.pdf.

Rather than repeat this, I thought I'd concentrate on the last 10 years. Many of us were members back in 2003, some have left, some have sadly died and of course the rest have joined!

One thing seems to be constant in that whole 10 year period. That's the president. Time to ditch him!

Our press reports get a bit sparse after 2003, so I'll concentrate on some bits and pieces.

2003 Anniversary Photo

How many of these can you spot? Many are still members today.



2003-2013 – New Munroists

During the last decade we had some new Munroists. John Dawson, John McDonald and Ali Anderson (all 2003) go into the first 40 years as they completed before October. Congratulations to all.

	Year	SMC No.
Sheila Simpson	2005	3432
Bill Simpson	2005	3433
Willie Mather	2006	3640
Nan Hargraves	2006	3654
Carolyn Smith	2009	4332
Bob Railton	2009	4333
Linda Sinclair	2009	4456
Alec Smith	2011	4925
Ray Campbell	2012	5129

SMC: end of year total 2013 = 5433

2003-2013 – New Corbetteers

We've also had some of a new breed – explorers and now Corbetteers.

01 Jul 2006	Brian Coull
04 Oct 2009	Martin Horne & Nancy McCombie (ex-members)
27 Aug 2010	Bill & Sheila Simpson

A few new ideas were introduced in the last decade like social meets, boules, curling and even geocaching.

And in the last decade a few old events were brought back girds, orienteering, camping meets, regular bike meets, incident of the year (to replace the lost wellie-boot), Halloween Party.

Davie's Bourach is still looked after by the club – that door can be seen for miles. There have been regular work parties. We've painted the trig point 3 times in the decade – almost time to go back.

One disappointing thing was that we haven't repeated our foreign meets (Mallorca 2000, Madeira 2003 for our 40th). However, members have continued to explore all over the world, many of these presented back to us at Open Meetings.

We've escaped serious injury. Roy Heberton's big yellow sky taxi was the only major incident. Mind you there have been hairy moments, some involving water and some involving ropes.

One of the big events was held in June 2006, when we celebrated Rita and John Norrie's 40 years in the club. Rita and John have contributed much to the club in all sorts of roles and were made honorary members in 2006.



We like cakes!

Some things don't change much – we go back regularly to old haunts like Dundonnell, Inchadamph, Knoydart (both sides), Skye, and Corran/Inchree. We've been over the sea to Arran. We've been to the Lakes – not popular with Munro baggers but fantastic walking. It's time to go back to Rum. Mill Cottage hasn't seen us for a while.

Day meets continue as normal with their ups and downs – very weather dependent. Bus meets are always popular because of the A-to-B aspect, so it's good that we keep 3 or 4 buses a year.

There have always been plenty of volunteers to serve on the committee and put in time to keep the club running. Well done, all of you.

It was a successful decade. Here's to the next decade! Let's have some more great days out in them hills!