

# Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: [www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk](http://www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## Monthly Newsletter

November 2024

The Meet on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November is to the Trossachs

### DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 going via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Roseburn, PC World, M9, A84 to Callander (short stop) and then A821 to Brig o' Turk and Loch Katrine car park NN 496 073, where the bus will park for the day.

#### High Tea

After the meet, we will end the day at the Lade Inn at Kilmahog near Callander where we will be having our customary November High Tea. If you are looking for "freshly-prepared, hearty meals with delicious real ales, including their own exclusive House Ales" don't miss this outing. See <https://www.theladeinn.com/>

**Bus convener:** Alex Williamson

**Bookings and cancellations:** Email [bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

**Main map required:** OS 1:50 000 sheet 57 Stirling and the Trossachs.

**The fare will be £25** and, while cash can be taken in the bus, it would be preferred if you could pay by bank transfer IN ADVANCE of the outing. The day before is fine. Please pay to:

PTARMIGAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (note name is not yet changed); 80-17-68; 00248765

#### Bus departure times - a reminder

We always aim for our buses to leave Waterloo Place promptly at 07:30 am on the day of an outing. It is difficult to predict the times at which the bus will arrive at other pick up points which will depend on traffic, any roadworks etc but the roads are usually very quiet at that time of day. We have a note of who is due to be joining the bus at Waterloo Place and the other pick up points. If anyone is missing, the bus will usually wait for two minutes at any pick up point but will not normally wait for any longer than that."

#### Route Options

##### Corbetts

**Ben Ledi** (879m, 562 098) can be approached from the walk/cycle path near Bochastle on the A821 300 metres south of Kilmahog or from the slopes just east of Milton of Callander on the A821. An excellent traverse can be undertaken by descending to Gleann Casaig for a pick-up at Brig o' Turk. Alternatively, a good circular route can be completed by descending to the Bealach nan Corp at the foot of Ben Ledi's north-west ridge before taking the path through the Stank Glen and a return along the Rob Roy Way direct to the Lade Inn.

**Benvane** (821m, 535 137) can be approached from Brig o' Turk by walking up the private road on the east side of Glen Finglas Reservoir as far as Gleann Casaig. The 4.5 km south ridge of Benvane is climbed via Creag na h-Airighe

before reaching the summit. Return by the route of ascent or descend via the western slopes to the track that leads back to Brig o' Turk along the Allt Gleann nam Meann. Benvane can be combined with Ben Ledi but this is recommended for faster parties only.

### **Grahams**

**Ben Venue** (729m, 474 063): take the path from the Loch Achray hotel along the south bank of the Achray water (or access this path from the A821 at NN 500 068) before navigating along forest tracks up Gleann Riabhach. Ascend steeply on a well-used path up toward the summit ridge and the north-western top which is the highest point on the hill. The south-eastern top at 727m is 2m lower and has a triangulation point. The summit of **Beinn Bhreac** (700m, 457 058) may also be taken in before descending by the route of ascent via Gleann Riabhach. Faster parties could vary the return by descending via **Beinn an Fhogharaidh** to the Duke's Pass and it looks like forest tracks can be taken back to the destination which would avoid much of the road walking.

Ben Venue can also be climbed from the Hotel taking a route that leads to the Bealach nam Bo or Pass of Cattle, through which Highlanders from Glen Gyle drove their stolen cattle.

Very keen Graham baggers could visit the summit of **Uamh Bheag** (664m, 691 118). The most direct route is from Callander via the Bracklinn Falls and Meall Leathan Dhail. Descend via the Meall Leathan Dhail route back to Callander and walk along the cycle track to the high tea venue at the Lade Inn.

### **Other hills**

**Ben A'an** (454m, 502 082): quite simply one of the finest "wee hills" in Scotland. This is a minor top of the higher summit of **Meall Gainmheich** (564m, 509 095), a Marilyn. It is easily ascended from the Ben A'an car park on the A821 (509 070). A continuation can be made from Ben A'an to the Marilyn before descending to the cycle track to the north of Loch Katrine via the Bealach na h-Imriche. This cycle track leads directly to the destination at the Loch Katrine car park.

**The Menteith Hills** (highest is **Beinn Dearg** at 427m, 589 038) can be ascended from Loch Venachar. A return can be made by descending the south-westerly slopes of Beinn Dearg to pick up the Rob Roy Way back to the Lade Inn.

**Creag Fharsuinn** (674m, 508 128) is a superb hill that can be approached from Brig o' Turk by walking up the private road on the east side of Glen Finglas and ascending the north-east ridge via Creag na Croiteige. Return the same way or to vary the route descend in a south-westerly direction to pick up the track through Glen Finglas that leads back to Brig o' Turk.

### **Low Level**

There is a good variety of low-level walks. An excellent option is to follow the Rob Roy Way from near Kilmahog past the Falls of Leny and along the west side of Loch Lubnaig towards Strathyre. This is an out-and-back route that returns directly to the Lade Inn.

Glen Finglas: from the village hall in Brig o' Turk walk north (past the site of John Ruskin's famous portrait by John Millais) to traverse the east side of the Finglas Reservoir as far up Glen Finglas as time permits before returning the same way.

Another option is to walk along the south side of Loch Venachar from Callander to Loch Achray - this is an excellent linear walk which can finish at either the Loch Katrine or the Ben A'an car park. This walk could be done in reverse to finish at the Lade Inn.

Behind Callander there is an option to walk up to the Bracklinn Falls and either continue to the Reservoir near Sgiath an Dobhrain or head to Arivurichardich and then in an easterly direction to the Allt an Dubh Choirein for as long as time allows. Both routes return the same way as the outward route back to Callander. From Callander the cycle track can be followed directly to the Lade Inn – a distance of approx. 1 mile.

*The Club's Code of Good Practice* notes that parties should comprise two, preferably three, people and those members must have a map of the area and compass and know how to use them. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried. The group should stick together and be alert for signs of anyone feeling unwell or getting into difficulties. For those members who have one it does no harm to carry a mobile phone, though it is important to understand that there is no guarantee of signal availability and this should never be relied upon.

**Disclaimer:** The routes outlined above are merely descriptions of walks in the area; they do not represent invitations or recommendations by the Club or any of its Officers to members to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each club member to choose a route that is within their capability taking due account of the timings given and the weather conditions prevailing.

'Everyone should be aware that the Scottish hills can provide more challenging days than the height and distance alone may indicate. Preferably robust boots should be worn and clothing worn or carried suitable to deal with wet, windy and cold weather at any season. A change of clothing in the bus is also advisable too. See additional advice for winter conditions.'

## WhatsApp Group

You are reminded that we have now set up a WhatsApp group to enable members to exchange plans for the day in advance which may take some pressure off the bus convener. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, please email [secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk)

## AGM

Our AGM will take place at 7:30 on Tuesday 26 November at the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Club, 1 Broughton Road, Canonmills, Edinburgh EH7 4EW. The Committee is meeting this week to discuss plans for our activities in 2025 which we will also be discussing at the AGM.

At the AGM we will also be electing a committee for 2025. The Committee plays a vital role in running the Club and we are looking for new members. If you feel able to help us in running the Club please consider whether you can help

## Inchnadamph Bunkhouse weekend

We have had a tremendous response to the proposed visit to the Inchnadamph Explorers Lodge over the weekend 27 – 30 June 2025 with no fewer than 26 members and some guests having noted an interest. We have managed to reserve accommodation in a variety of rooms for exactly that number. It is always possible that one or two will drop out and we will be opening a waiting list for any vacancies that arise. Details of the Lodge and of the Assynt area in which we will be walking can be found at the website: <https://www.inchnadamph.com/>

## What we did last month

A day less than ideal for photography & not great for hillwalking either.

"After one or two last minute cancellations there were 22 of us, including 4 guests joining us for the first time, actually on the bus to Tyndrum for our October outing. Weather forecast was unpromising predicting low cloud, light rain and some wind. Unfortunately it proved to be pretty accurate! Diahann & Catherine were the first off the bus at Ben More farm from which they did both Ben More and Stobinian walking back to the Rod & Reel in Crianlarich at the end of the day. No fewer than 18 of us set off from Dalrigh with the intention of doing Beinn Dubhchraig and perhaps also Ben Oss. After the recent rain the path up beside the Allt Coire Dubhchraig through the forest could fairly be described as high bog factor with an unpleasant amount of mud. Pity because it's one of the last remnants of the great Caledonian forest. As we got higher up beside the river the path improved but the visibility deteriorated and the mist became rain above about 600 metres. Most of us nevertheless made it up both hills with some deciding, probably sensibly, that one was enough. In view of the poor visibility, all but Tim decided to return the way we came with one group walking back to Tyndrum and the bus picking up the remainder at Dalrigh. Tim stuck with the original plan of returning to Tyndrum using the bridge at Cononish Farm which he navigated successfully. Petra and Christine were the last off the bus at the Green Welly stop with the intention of doing one or more of the Tyndrum Corbetts. They did Beinn Odhar before calling it a day. Not a day when the weather was shining on us but it was enjoyed by all, as was the welcome stop in Callander on the way home." (Douglas Tullis)

## Christine Thompson

All Christine's friends and colleagues are welcome to attend: **11:30am Wednesday 13th November.**

Cremation at Mortonhall, Pentland Chapel, Howdenhall Road, Edinburgh, EH16 6TX. At Christine's request, family flowers only and please wear 'happy' (not formal black) clothes. The event will be livestreamed and recorded for those unable to attend.

The service will be followed, at 12:30, by a gathering with light refreshments in the Braid Hills Hotel, 134 Braid Road, Edinburgh, EH10 6JD. Tea and coffee are included but you can purchase other drinks from the bar.

Please let [roy@ed.ac.uk](mailto:roy@ed.ac.uk) know if you are hoping to attend the gathering, and if non-gluten, vegetarian or vegan option is required/preferred.

# Celebrating the Life of



## Christine Lesley Thompson

4<sup>th</sup> March 1947 – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024