



The Munro Society NEWSLETTER

No. 55, August 2022



Loch Loch from the descent from Beinn a' Ghlo (see page 28) - Alan Rowan



President's Blog

New President Alf Barnard plants trees in Knoydart

A warm welcome to one and all from your new President. 'A very hard act to follow' is often one of life's little understatements. Anne Butler did an exceptional job for three and a half years, taking on the mantle with aplomb after the sudden death of David Batty in November 2018. We should all have deep admiration for how she coped as President, whilst simultaneously being Membership Secretary and Meet Secretary. Now she has stepped in again, to return as Vice-president, due to the unfortunate situation of no

other candidates coming forward.

After five years as your Treasurer, it was with some relief that I was entrusted with being Vice-president - and then to the dizzy heights of President. That was until I received from Anne the two-page list of 'President's role and responsibilities'. Oh well.

Now it is summer again and optimism is on the rise, with long warm days and the seeming abatement of the virus. My favourite season for heading for the hills is the spring, March through to June - due to the increasingly long days and eternal sunshine (in my dreams!). After saying many times that I will never,

ever do the Grahams, I have succumbed to their whimsical and occasionally difficult to find charms. On the good side is the prospect of not meeting, or even seeing other people – but the downside is the distinct lack of paths. There can also be a lot of low ground with unpleasant vegetation and in many cases, they are a 'long way from nowhere'. I even dusted off my trusty Hardrock mountain bike and fitted a 'do-it-yourself' electric pedal-assisted kit. Even those long tracks are now not quite so hard in both senses of the word, and I am enjoying them. Now that the halfway point has been passed, it is safe to say that I am hooked. Whatever next - the Donalds?

At the March AGM in Perth, attendance was poor, due to, I suspect, a hangover from the past two years. However, it was very nice to be able to meet and interact with members in person. There is nothing like face-to-face contact and the ability to communicate properly again. Although the venue is well-appointed and in central Scotland, many of those attending commented that they had a hankering for a return to Birnam.

Our new Treasurer Oliver Bartrum explained succinctly why we needed to increase the membership subscription from £20 - where it had been held for an unprecedented 14 years - to £30. In retrospect, it was apparent that an increase should probably have happened several years ago. This change will require a lot of extra work for the poor Treasurer. So far, I am pleased to report the increase has been accepted with equanimity by the membership.

This year Alan Watt and Bill Wheeler left the Executive Committee, though both of them continue to be involved: Alan as the Munro Legacy Exhibition coordinator and Bill as TMS archivist. A big thank you to them for all the hard work they have done - and continue to do. They were replaced by Dave Gibson and Jim Robertson, both well-known and respected members: Dave as former Mountaineering Scotland CEO and John Muir Trust Chair, and Jim as the Mountain Reports Coordinator for TMS and former member of the executive (more on page 8).

Importantly, it was apparent at this, and previous, AGMs that there is a dearth of members stepping forward to join the Executive Committee and become office bearers. Without the involvement of new blood on the Executive the very future of TMS is decidedly uncertain. Please actively consider how you could make a contribution to the running of the Society.

This year is full of 20th Anniversary celebrations as The Munro Society was twenty years old in April. Once again, we are greatly indebted to Anne Butler for her organisational skills in planning these events. The spring meet was to Inverie in Knoydart from May 13th to 16th for the tree planting ceremony. This was part of The Munro Society's 20th Anniversary celebrations, which in conjunction with the Knoydart Forest Trust, TMS sponsored the planting of 914 native trees. I was persuaded to plant six (oak and rowan) trees on the Sunday evening, as the rain clouds moved in. Ann White who had meticulously organised the tree planting, duly took the photographic evidence. A detailed report by Ann follows on page 9.



Alfhard at work tree planting

Ann White

In June I had my first committee meeting as Chair, but not at the Mountaineering Scotland office in Perth as planned, but on Zoom. Three Executive members living 'down south' attended by Zoom. The use of this facility means that meetings can successfully be 'attended' by those living far away. No excuse then for those members living south of the border, not to volunteer their services to the Society! Further meets for members to enjoy this year are the summer (8th to 11th July) Skye meet at Carboist, and the autumn (23rd to 26th September) Torridon Meet at the Youth Hostel – the 'Big Birthday Bash'. And then back to the Grant Arms at Grantown-on-Spey for the Annual Dinner on 5th November. A veritable feast for all!

On 10th May Angus Campbell, died. He had been a member since the inaugural meeting in April 2002 in the Peter Ustinov Room the Bonar Hall, Dundee. I represented The Munro Society and the Grampian Club at his funeral held at Cardross Crematorium on 26th May. He was a long-standing member of the Lomond Mountain Rescue Team based in Drymen (his home village). His smiley face will be sorely missed by all who knew him. An appreciation of Angus appears on page 8.

TMS

The Munro Society Newsletter No.55
August 2022



4	News Section <i>Of the Society and Elsewhere</i>
8	Meet the Committee <i>Two new committee members</i>
9	Tree Planting in Knoydart <i>Ann White</i>
11	Canine Completers <i>Anne Butler</i>
14	Cure for Hillbagging Withdrawal Symptoms <i>Keith & Di Williams</i>
15	A Diamond Munroist <i>Ian Edward</i>
16	On the Crossing of 'Wee Burns' <i>Jan Drye</i>
19	A West Coast Miscellany <i>Derek Sime</i>
22	Getting to Glen Brittle <i>Mike Weedon</i>
23	Spring Meet in Knoydart <i>Anne Butler</i>
25	Marooned ! <i>Mike Weedon</i>
27	The Charms of a Scottish Island <i>Irene Leckie</i>
28	Loch Loch, so good they named it twice <i>Alan Rowan</i>
31	The Munro Legacy Film Project <i>Irene Leckie</i>
32	The Lindertis Diary <i>A Sideways Look at the Walking World</i>
33	Dates for your Diary <i>Some Dates for 2022 & 2023</i>
34	Photo Competition <i>Details of this year's competition</i>



In this, our 20th Anniversary year, it is appropriate that we have another bumper 36-page edition. Our new President was busy tree planting, as recounted by Ann White, and also was keen to draw members' attention to the Scottish Wild Land Group (in the News section) – an item he proudly typed out on his smart phone while sailing up the coast of Norway – now that's Presidential dedication for you!

Anne Butler tells of the known canine Munro completers, while Di & Keith Williams recall the difficulties of the lockdowns and travel restrictions of the last two years, and Ian Edwards rightly claims to be a Diamond Munroist. Jan Drye tries to keep dry feet while crossing some wee burns while your Editor recalls some west coast exploits from a Knoydart base in April, and Mike Weedon looks back at hitch-hiking to Glen Brittle back in the '70s.

Anne Butler's Spring Meet report is there, and Mike Weedon is back again, this time on adventures in Ireland. Irene Leckie extolls the virtues of walking on the Island of Bute in the Firth of Clyde, noting its history and archaeology, and Alan Rowan also steeped himself in history, enjoying a fine but long summer's day over Beinn a' Ghlo and on to Loch Loch, exploring the area and its turbulent past. Then Irene is back with information on the Munro Legacy Filming Project.

The Lindertis Diary some diary dates and details of this year's photo competition round things off.

Please send material for the December issue by **31 October 2022** to simed44.ds@gmail.com (max. 1,500 words). The earlier an item is received, the better the chance of it appearing in the next Newsletter. Photos should be sent as separate jpg files (max. 2MB per photo), and NOT as embedded files. Also, why not drop a line to the Postbag section (although nobody did this time) – we like to hear from you!