



The Munro Society NEWSLETTER

No. 41, December 2017



Beinn a'Bheithir, Lochs Leven & Linnhe and Garbh Bheinn from the Pap of Glencoe

©Norman McNab



The President's Blog

Ramblings, Interviews and Events

Stewart Logan on more HuMPs, coast walks, books, TVs and barometers

The period since the last Newsletter has been a mixed bag for me and, in fact, only included one trip to climb Munros. All of this is a far cry from the days when I expected to climb at least one hundred a year. My main hill-walking in the period has been two trips to the south of England to climb 72 HuMPs.

In June, Eleanor and I had a week's holiday in a self-catering house in Anstruther in the East Neuk of Fife. We managed to get out on sections of the Fife Coastal Path on a daily basis. It's a bit different from climbing the hills but the scenery is magnificent. The potential hazards are somewhat different from walking in the hills. The main objective is to avoid

the flying golf-balls as you pass by the numerous links golf-courses.

In July I somehow found myself roped into being interviewed by a young lady from Canada who was writing a book on the life of over-75s in different walks of life around the world. She wanted to interview me while out on a "hike" so I chose Ben Lomond. I thought that I was still reasonably fit but she had not told me that, outside her work, she led trips into the hills. She was very fit! I look forward with trepidation to see what she has to say about me in her book.

At the end of the month I attended the Corran meet ably organised by Anne Butler. We had the usual mixed weather for 2017. I'm not sure if I should even

admit to this but I, and several others, accompanied Alan Brook as he finished his third round of hills demoted from Munro's Tables. I know that many think me mad for the number of Munros that I have climbed but I think that Alan's effort is definitely in the anorak area.

Much of August and September was taken up with house and garden improvements. However, I did not miss the hills as much as I expected because the hills that I am after need several days away from home and there never seemed to be forecasts for several consecutive good days. However, there was one occasion in September that I could not get out of. Eleanor and I booked a hotel near Balquhiddy to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. I put this achievement down to our having our separate interests - me the hills and Eleanor squash and tennis, so we did not get in each other's way too much! The hotel was beside the old railway line from Callander to Killin. It has been converted into a cycle route so we got plenty of cycling over the weekend. On one trip, we passed the memorial to two RAF men who were killed when their Tornado crashed at the top of Glen Ogle. I remember the occasion clearly and was shocked to find that it happened 23 years ago.

As President of our Society, which of course sponsors winter safety lectures, I was invited to an event at Holyrood in September. It was to allow people involved in mountain safety and rescue to meet Members of the Scottish Parliament. By going early, I took the opportunity to visit the debating chamber and see the Parliament in action. The debating chamber is pretty impressive but one would expect nothing else considering what the building cost. Our event, which was hosted by Mountaineering Scotland, was in a conference room and was standing only. After various speeches, the opportunity was given to meet other hill people and to chat to MSPs. The Minister for the Environment was present and I wanted to talk to him about industrial developments in the map of protected wild land. Before I could fight my way over the room to him, he was gone.

I was not able to go on the Galloway autumn meet because it coincided with a period where we have four birthdays and an anniversary over ten days. From what I learnt, I did not miss much in terms of good walking weather. Let's hope we are luckier with the spring meet in the Brecon area. I have my eye on a clutch of English HuMPs down the Welsh

border.

I had two contrasting events in October. The first was in Kirriemuir, where I hail from. I had previously given a PowerPoint presentation in the local museum and also got several members of TMS to come to the same location for the unveiling of a plaque to Sir Hugh Munro. The museum was contacted by the BBC to suggest someone who could speak about Munro and I ended up being that person. The interview will form part of an episode of the Antiques Road Trip in north-east Scotland and will be broadcast around next spring. I had intended to give some publicity for the Society but the opportunity never arose. The questioning was very restrictive and gave no chance to open up discussion. I did get one surprise in that a descendant of Sir Hugh came along and brought with her his pocket aneroid barometer which I unwrapped on camera. Like all similar events, I'm told that the 150 minutes of filming will be edited to about five.



Finally, I'd like to let you know about two initiatives which will hopefully come to fruition in the not too distant future. Iain Robertson, who organised the Heightings project, has been collecting

contributions from various people on the heightings and the history of Munro's Tables. All of the contributions have now been collected and I shall lead a group tasked with putting these together with a view to publishing a book. If all goes to plan, we hope to have a publication out before the end of 2018. It would form part of our recognition of the hundredth anniversary of Munro's death in 2019. The other initiative comes about because I mentioned this anniversary to the archive staff in the Bell Library in Perth. They have suggested that the Munro Society could work with them in setting up an exhibition on Munro and his legacy. David Batty will further this project. I was absolutely delighted that Munro's relative, whom I mentioned earlier, would be very pleased to make Munro's aneroid barometer available for this exhibition.

The Munro Society Newsletter No.41 December 2017



1	The President's Blog <i>Stewart Logan</i>
3	Editorial <i>Derek Sime</i>
3	News Section <i>Of the Society and Elsewhere</i>
9	The Mountains and the People <i>Ann White</i>
10	Meet Reports <i>Anne Butler on Corran and Galloway</i>
13	A Trig Point with a Hat on <i>Dave Irons</i>
14	007 or 951 – a Memorable Day on Blaven <i>Sue Pugh</i>
16	My Munro Story <i>Elsa Yates</i>
17	A Climb to the Tops <i>John Green</i>
19	In the Way of All Tickers <i>Glen Breden</i>
20	In My Day <i>Robert H MacDonald</i>
22	News from the Alps <i>Our annual feature on matters Alpine</i>
23	Lindertis Diary <i>A sideways look at the walking world</i>
25	Dates for your Diary <i>Next year's meets</i>
26	Book Review <i>Literature of the Gaelic Landscape</i>
27	Postbag <i>Your letters (or emails)</i>
29	Photographic Competition <i>This year's winning entries</i>

* * * * *



Editorial

Derek Sime

We have two more fantastic photographs from Norman McNab to grace the front and back covers this bumper 32-page issue. Inside – path repairs, hat-wearing trig pillars, completions a-plenty, memorable days – but not for the best of reasons, and lists, county tops and county flowers.

Plus all the usual news and reviews, meet reports, your letters, the Lindertis Diary, the annual report from the Alps, the RH MacDonald column and details of forthcoming meets and events, not forgetting the winners of this year's photographic competition. Please send articles for the April issue by **28 February 2018** to simed44.ds@gmail.com (maximum 1,500 words). Photos should be sent as separate files (maximum 2MB per photo). ■



News Section

□ PATH NEWS

The John Muir Trust's Skye Footpath Project has been ongoing for over a year now, and work has been carried out on Druim Hain and Beinn Dearg Mheadhonach, and on the Sligachan and Bla Bheinn paths. The work has been done by JMT staff, volunteers, footpath contractors and students and staff from UHI (the University of the Highlands and Islands). Further work is planned in year 2 on Druim Hain, Beinn Dearg Mheadhonach and possibly Bla Bheinn. Funding sources have included the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund, the SMT and the Kestrelman Trust. NTS on the other hand has also been busy on path maintenance on its mountain properties, with £168,000 having been donated to their Footpath Fund last year.

Work is also ongoing in Cairngorms National Park in the Beinn a'Ghlo range, with the badly eroded path up Carn Liath undergoing repairs between 400m and