The Munro Society
NEWSLETTER No. 62, December 2024

A grand view on Goatfell, Arran, during the autumn TMS meet *(see page 17)* *Oliver Bartrum*

Moderate becoming good later (Toby & Katie Carr) is a moving account of one man's attempt to sea-kayak the areas of the Shipping Forecast. It also sums up my progress towards completing the Munro Tops this year. It started well with Beinn a' Ghlo and its Top in April, suffered a setback after an injury in Torridon the following week, picked up in June with Ben Wyvis and its Tops and came good by the summer at Inchnadamph and trips to Glen Coe and Glen Affric. I plan to complete the Munro Tops (on Tom Dubh, Monadh Mòr) at the Glen Feshie meet next September, details of which appear at the end of this Newsletter.

The meets this summer/autumn, at Inchnadamph in July and on Arran in September, were a great success and enjoyed by all present. Reports on both meets appear in this Newsletter. I know that many of us have further hill lists and targets that we aim to complete after a round of Munros, so congratulations to those who achieved their goals on those two meets: Norman Wares who climbed his 2,000th Simm in July and Dave Chapman who completed his round of Corbetts on Arran. True to form, for me anyway, the weather on Goatfell on completion day was awful and only half the party that set out made it to the top. It reminded me of my previous trip to Arran in July 2014 – a week of continuous wind and rain. Naturally, the days before and after Dave's completion were beautiful!

Well done to Alf Barnard too for completing his Donlad Tops on Carrifran Gans near Moffat, thereby achieving a Full House, and for picking a fine day for such an occasion.

Our Annual Dinner was held again in Grantown-on-Spey on 26th October. 55 members and guests were present. The pre-Dinner lecture, now named the Robin Campbell Memorial Lecture in memory of our first Hon. President, was given by the sea-kayaker, climber and adventurer Will Copestake. His talk, 'The Coldest Corbett Challenge', about his winter round of Corbetts in 2017-18 was not only about a huge achievement; it was also a wonderful promotion for the beauty of the Corbetts, being accompanied by superb photographs. A link to Will's podcast of his Winter Round of Corbetts and other trips, including his (largely) winter round of Munros can be found on the TMS website.

The Dinner itself was a great gathering of old friends and some new members. A special welcome was given to David Solomon, our new, and youngest, member and, it is believed, the first black man to complete all the Munros; he is certainly the first to join the Society. He completed his round of Munros in four years. Inspired by Will's talk and suggestions made (after dinner!) David has now set his sights on a Full House. The President's Walk took place as usual on the Sunday.

Sadly, the Dinner proved to be the last for one of our eldest members. Pete Williams, who had not attended a Dinner for some time, was determined to attend this year. His daughter Jenny drove him to Grantown, and he enjoyed the company and the dinner greatly. In the early hours of Sunday morning, he collapsed but managed to get downstairs where two of our members were, fortunately(!) still at the bar. An ambulance was called, and Pete was taken to hospital.

Although discharged later on Sunday, Pete had a relapse while returning home and died that afternoon. On the one hand, it was a sad and sobering close to a most enjoyable weekend; on the other, what better way to go, after a good dinner with old friends reminiscing about days in the Scottish hills. Our thoughts were very much with Jenny and the family as they had to come to terms with such a sudden loss.

In other news, the Munro Legacy Exhibition mounted a one-month display at Paxton House near Berwick-upon-Tweed in October. Paxton House is a popular visitor attraction and a significant location for the Legacy exhibition given a historical connection with the Reverend AE Robertson (1870-1958), Scottish mountaineer and the first Munroist. It is possible that the Exhibition will return to Paxton House again in 2026.

On the charitable giving and publicity fronts, we are all aware of the eroding effect we can have on the hills, on popular Munros in particular. We have therefore donated to '*It's Up to Us*', a joint three-year programme between Mountaineering Scotland and the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) for path repairs on An Teallach. Anyone who has visited the mountain recently will know how much this work is needed.

We took a stand as usual at the 40th Dundee Mountain Film Festival from 5th to – 7th December.

Special thanks are due to all those who have been responsible for our recent meets, functions, displays and publications as well as to those who have contributed to our Mountain Reporting programme. Over 170 hill reports were published between June and September, many from one (lady) member - a rate of progress few of us can match! We have a full programme of meets planned for next year; details can be found at the end of this Newsletter. I look forward to seeing old, and hopefully some new, faces at the meets, as well as celebrating planned completions at two of them. I also hope to see many of you at our AGM in Birnam on Saturday 5th April 2025. Amongst other matters, a proposal to combine future AGMs with the annual dinner will be put to members, as too will the question of eligibility for membership to the Society; this matter had been raised at the AGM this year.

Thank you to those who responded to my request in the last Newsletter for opinions. With our membership numbers slightly down on previous years, eligibility for membership remains high on the committee's agenda. You will be given good notice of, and the opportunity to vote on, any motion(s) being proposed at the next AGM. If you have views on this or any other matter, please do email me at - president@themunrosociety.com

Wishing you all well over the winter and fine conditions for any planned hill days.

The President's Walk *Anne Butler*

TMS

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Welcome to the December edition of the Newsletter. Sadly we have lost another two members, who have passed away recently. An appreciation of Alan Hinchcliffe appears in this edition, and the day after he had attended the Annual Dinner, we lost Pete Williams.

On a brighter note, guest writer Iain Thow tells us about tors and tables on Ben Avon and that's followed by Mike Weedon on Ben Vorlich, and the two meet reports by Anne Butler, plus Alan Brook's underground diversions.

Alan Rowan recalls outings on Sgùrr nan Ceathreamhnan, and even manages to spell it and pronounce it correctly, while Martin Robertson almost loses a camera and his car on Moruisg and Sgùrr nan Caennaichean!

Roger Drye takes us for a panoramic view of Wales, and Peter Barlass attends a tea party hosted by an old friend of TMS.

Andrew Fraser considers recent developments in the hills in the name of 'progress' and questions the wisdom of it all.

We review the sixth edition of the ScotWays publication *Scottish Hill Tracks*.

As ever, the whole thing is rounded off with the Lindertis Diary and some dates for your own diary in 2025, plus our largest ever Postbag!

Please send material for the April issue **by 28 February 2025** to simed44.ds@gmail.com (max. 1,500 words). As always, 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**), with suitable captions (preferably in the file name) and not as embedded files. Also, why not drop a line to the Postbag section – we like to hear from you!

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