



The Munro Society NEWSLETTER

No. 65, December 2025



Inversion on Beinn a' Chreachain, Beinn a' Chuirn and Beinn Mhanach from Beinn an Dothaidh in mid-October

D Sime



President's Report

Oliver Bartrum

Stob Ghabhar (D Sime)

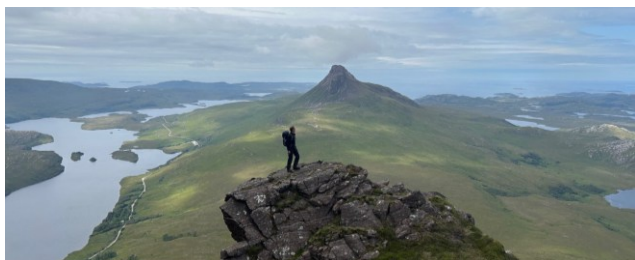
The completion of hill lists kept many members busy over the last few months. Following on from the Full House completions of Shona Marshall and Betty plus John Green, Mike Weedon completed the Grahams in August and Norman Wares the Lakeland Wainwrights in September. Dave Chapman finished his second round of the Birketts in July as well as the Grahams and a Full House on 26th October. Anne Butler completed her third round of the Donalds in August. No doubt there are other hill-list completers who I have not mentioned and we should not forget to thank those who support our efforts: other members, families and friends. We have also had eleven new members join this year. Well done on your own Munro rounds and a warm

welcome to you. My own completion of the Munro Tops was during the Glen Feshie meet that Alf Barnard describes on page 10 of this Newsletter.

In contrast to the peat bogs and open hills of Monadh Mòr, I was joined by an old friend for some of the SMC Highland North Scrambles routes. We headed to Assynt to try Foinaven via the Ganu Mòr slabs, Cùl Beag via Lurgainn Ridge and Cul Mòr via Pinnacle Ridge. All were 3-star routes; deservedly so in our opinion. But each comes with a qualifying comment: '*quite blank slabby gneiss not advised in the wet*' (Ganu Mòr Slabs), '*has a sting in the tail*' (Pinnacle Ridge) and, most accurate of all, '*a purgatorially steep approach*' (Lurgainn Ridge).

We stopped off at Stac Pollaidh for an east-west traverse. We found the route up to the east top rather scrappy but once on the ridge, the numerous little

towers and pinnacles make for a great traverse to the true top at the western end.



Stac Pollaidh from Lurgainn Edge, Cul Mòr

O Bartrum

The routes on Foinaven, Cùl Beag and Cul Mòr provided a new perspective to these mountains and spectacular views. On the walk-in to Foinaven we stopped to talk to some fishermen on the River Dionard. One of them was not enjoying the midges, or the thought of them, and looked up at Foinaven admitting that he would rather be *'up there than down here'*. The summit of Ganu Mòr was in cloud by the time we got there. There was no sign of the fisherman.

My previous visit to Cul Mòr and Cùl Beag was during my round of the Corbetts. Doing them together I have more memory of the steep and rough-going descent and reascent between the two, than the spectacular positions of the individual tops. Not so, second time round. Apart from one grimy chimney on Pinnacle Ridge, this is a great ridge scramble requiring, for us anyway, the use of a rope on one section. We said hello to Bòd a Mhiotailt (the Old Man), skirting round rather than over it, and enjoyed a leisurely lunch on top.

Although the walk-in to Lurgainn Ridge starts from near the roadside at Linneraineach, the guidebook does add that it is a good summer evening route ... *'for the energetic'*. It is a pathless, ever-steepening, heather-covered slope with awkward boulders. Once at the start of the route, the tremendous aspect of it all makes it worthwhile; the rock is solid with plenty of sound holds in all the right places. The tricky sections can be avoided. Another fine lunch spot on the top gave us time to take in the views both of the surrounding hills and a display by three soaring eagles. (More photos on page 32).

The first combined AGM/dinner was held on Saturday 25th October at the Grant Arms in Grantown-on-Spey. It was another excellent dinner attended by 55 members and guests. Holding the AGM in the afternoon worked well and the savings achieved from combining these events has helped us keep the annual subscription for 2026 at £30.00.

Subscription notices for next year will be sent out with the 2026 April Newsletter. I am delighted that Shona Marshall was elected as the new Vice President, and David Solomon was elected to the committee. David is already working hard on a project to update and relaunch the TMS website. It was also agreed that we would make donations next year, to environmental and educational causes.

Following the AGM, the Robin Campbell Memorial Lecture was given by Lorraine McCall. She spoke about her continuous rounds of Munros, Corbetts and Grahams, and we could all relate to some of the triumphs and disasters yet remain incredibly impressed by the scale of her achievements. The Photographic Competition saw excellent entries in four different categories. The winning entries appear on pages 33 & 34. Next year's AGM/Lecture and Dinner will be back at the Grant Arms Hotel on Saturday 24th October. The President's Walk on Sunday morning was in two parts: many of us accompanied Dave Chapman on his Graham and Full House completion on Beinn a' Mheadoinn in Glen Affric. It was a fine day by comparison to his Corbett completion on Goat Fell in September 2024.



Dave Chapman and 11 Full House completers on Beinn a' Mheadoinn

John Speakman, Elsa Yates, Irene Leckie and Barbara Barnard plus Ruairidh kept closer to home and walked down the Speyside Way and through Anagach Woods. John's write-up of this walk is a lesson in Mountain Reporting: start and finish times with grid references, height climbed, distance, weather and a comprehensive list of the flora and fauna – both what could be seen and what was observed. He got a special mention at the AGM for the standard of his Marilyn contributions to the database. (See report on page 13).

It is with great sadness that we heard on the Sunday morning of the death of Eleanore Hunter, President of The Munro Society 2012-14. She was well known to members and a good friend to many of us. An obituary will appear in the April Newsletter. **TMS**

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Editorial



Derek Sime

Welcome to the December Newsletter. Lots of news items to kick it off. Then David Solomon introduces himself as the new committee member with lots of ideas for attracting new members. That's followed by the meet reports – summer by John Speakman, and autumn by Alf Barnard, and Anne White's account of doing the Lairig Ghru just before the Feshie meet, and a short piece on the somewhat depleted President's Walk by John Speakman.

Then we welcome back an old friend Robert H MacDonald, and Hamish Brown tells us about General Wade. Andrew Fraser extolls the virtues of multi-day treks both at home and abroad, and Maggie Kift is back on Beinn Fhada after a 21-year absence, accompanied by Alan Brook.

After that, there's Part 2 of Hamish Brown's recollections on Brandon Mountain, plus a poem he was inspired to write.

That's followed by Part 3 of Mike Weedon's early Cairngorm adventures, and Alan Rowan on the joys of visiting a few Corbett Tops. Part 2 of Roger Drye's Snowdon ascents concludes the articles for this issue. As usual there's the Lindertis Diary, Dates for your diary in 2026, the Postbag letters, a short poem by the legendary Syd Scroggie and the photo competition results, as well as a reproduction of the four winning entries.

Please send material for the April issue by **28th February 2026** 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!

TMS