



The Munro Society NEWSLETTER

No. 67, August 2026



Ben Cruachan and Loch Etive from Ben Starav on a sweltering day in late April

Derek Sime



Stob Coire Sgreamach & Stob Dubh (D Sime)

Membership renewals were due as at 1st May and I'm pleased to report that, to date, 90% of us have renewed. However, taking into account resignations, our numbers could drop below 300 this year; a sign of our ageing membership profile. If you have not paid your 2026 subscription yet, and you are receiving this Newsletter, please contact our Treasurer immediately. Failure to do so means this might be the last Newsletter you receive. The £30 subscription remains extraordinarily good value for three high quality Newsletters each year, the chance to attend three excellent meets and the Annual Lecture/AGM and Dinner. Membership also allows

you to contribute towards the legacy of Sir Hugh Munro. The Society's archive, held in the AK Bell Library in Perth, together with the Mountain Reporting database, accessed via the Society's website, are both examples of how members can help to inform, and possibly inspire, future generations. More about Mountain Reporting at the end of my report.

Over the last few months, I have been reminded, again, of my ability to underestimate in three respects. On a trip to the Isle of Rùm in April, I could well remember my previous traverse of Ainsghal, Trollabhal, Askival and Hallival on a glorious day in May. It seemed like a few years ago, not 12 years as my records confirmed. It is a long day so this time, my wife and I chose to do just Hallival and Askival and return via the Atlantic Corrie. The very late

return of some of the party confirmed this was the right decision for us. Underestimating the time since I was last on a particular hill and the time it takes to do it 12 years later is one thing, underestimating the conditions is quite another. Catherine and I had a day in Fort William before returning south after our trip to Rùm, and as she had still to climb Ben Nevis, that was the plan. My idea of avoiding the tourist path by walking round to the north side, past the CIC hut and cutting up to the CMD arête, a route I have taken in the past in summer, was a non-starter. There was a lot of snow and ice above 1,000m and we did not have ice axes and crampons with us. However, the conditions had deterred many others from setting out and, as we approached the top, the clouds cleared, and for the first time that I can remember (and this was my tenth ascent by various routes since 1998), we had the summit trig point to ourselves. The snow had completely covered the large mound on which the trig point is sited.



Ben Nevis summit

Sadly, injury prevented me from attending the Glen Coe meet in early June, a report on which appears on page 28 (the meet, not my injury!). The meet was poorly attended due to late cancellations, some of which were down to injuries and operations. In two cases, spare places were taken by guests. It is important to recognise that more of the places on our meets are being filled by guests; some are members of other clubs/societies, others are not. All of them are active hillwalkers, and some are aspiring Munroists who would be keen to join the Society.

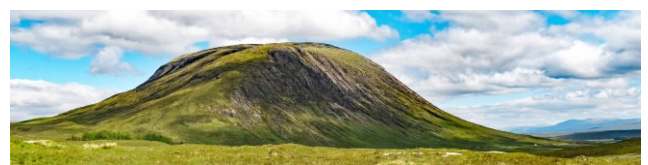
I am as guilty as others in underestimating the time needed for recovery and my recent back injury was no exception. Six weeks' 'rest' seemed to be a heavy price to pay for an avoidable injury incurred at home. As I write this in mid-June, I very much look

forward to returning to Ardgour and surrounding area for the Corran meet. I hope anyone else who has been out of action due to injury is back on the road to full recovery.

Looking at the TMS Facebook page recently, it was good to see reports and photos from members out in many different areas: the Skye Cuillin, Torridon & Fisherfield, Strathfarrar, Mullardoch, Affric and the Cairngorms. I particularly liked the photos posted by Mike and Clare Gill with the family on their return visits to An Teallach and Seana Bhraigh. It was over 25 years since their previous ascents. There is a good excuse for taking longer on Seana Bhraigh if approaching from the north. 25 years ago you could park near Corriemulzie Lodge; now you can only drive to The Schoolhouse, adding about 6km to the round trip.

Facebook also records our Vice-President's completion of a second round of Munros, also on Seana Bhraigh, in June. Congratulations to Shona and Betty on this latest achievement. In the course of this round, Shona and Betty have made great inroads in reporting the previously 'unreported' Munros for the Mountain Reporting database. We are now down to eight remaining Munros and nine Corbetts to complete those hill lists. There are also two remaining Grahams. All the Donalds have been reported at least once. Further reports are always welcome as these help record the changes to the mountain environment and access to the hills. If you haven't contributed to the database and wish to find out more about it, please contact Shona who is also the Mountain Reporting Coordinator. Contact details can be found at the end of this Newsletter. Once again, I extend thanks to her and all the other members who have contributed to this project and continue to do so. Mention must also be made of the late David Batty (President of TMS in 2018) who conceived and launched the project, and to the work of Jim Roberston, the previous Mountain Reporting Coordinator.

Wishing everyone good days in the Scottish hills and perhaps further afield. I look forward to those of you attending the Ullapool meet in September and the AGM/Lecture and Dinner in October **TMS**



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As usual, we have an eclectic selection of articles from our members, starting with Ann White's walk along Hadrian's Wall. Robert H MacDonald extolls the virtues of silence on the hills rather than endless chatter, something which I guess Andrew Fraser enjoyed on his Island Hills.

Roger Drye takes us to the Far North, climbing Ben Hope and Ben Klibreck, and Neville Wiseman recalls staying at Gerry's Hostel near Achnashellach, something which many members will have done. Then we have more Cairngorms memories from Mike Weedon, followed by Alf Barnard recalling a helicopter rescue on Braeriach earlier this year, although fortunately Alan Rowan didn't need to be rescued when hopelessly adrift in the Cairngorms 30 years ago.

Mike Thornton writes of a cycling trip in Orkney earlier this year with his companions – the old men of Hoy, and Richard B Young, inspired by Julian Foot's article in the April issue, tells of his highest ascent, that of Großglockner in the Austrian Alps.

As is often the case with TMS meets, the weather turns out to be sub-optimal, and this year's Glencoe meet was no exception, as Anne Butler relates.

Then, for something completely different, Norman McNab and our Editor recall in pictures their visit to the Svalbard archipelago last summer.

As well as the usual Lindertis Diary, there's a book review - a book which relates to Mike Thornton's Orkney story.

Please send material for the December issue **by 31st October 2026** to editor@themunrosociety.com – **NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS** (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**), with suitable captions (preferably in the file name) and not as embedded files. Also, why not drop a line to the Postbag section.

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