



Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)

Established 1988

Newsletter #62

December 2014



Published by Cioch Mountaineering Club (Dunfermline)
Unless indicated otherwise, Copyright Richard Christie

Meet Report: Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge, 7th & 8th November 2014.

Contributions from Dave Paton, Neil Anderson and Jim Donald.

Neil kicks off the meet report as follows:

12 people attended Mill Cottage meet; Chris, Janice, Jim D, Olly, Barry, Dave P, Steve, Vicky, Neil(me), Sharon, Sam and Martin.

Friday

Neil and Sharon left Edinburgh just after 5pm on Friday, while Sam and Martin left Dunfermline around same time and the 4 met up to try out the Darjeeling Indian restaurant in Dunkeld en-route to Mill Cottage. A very nice meal was enjoyed, at a good point on the journey for a food stop - only criticism; slightly more expensive than Dunfermline Indian restaurants.

Saturday

A reasonably bright day that stayed dry at lower levels. Variable cloud base around 1000m, some snow underfoot above 1000m, fresh breeze taking wind chill down to 0°C or slightly under on exposed hillsides. All added up to quite pleasant walking conditions in the more sheltered areas.

Olly and Barry climbed Cairngorm and Ben Macdui. Sam, Martin, Steve and Vicky climbed Geal Charn (most westerly Monadh Laith). Neil and Sharon climbed Braeraich from the Sugarbowl car park, through Calamain Gap, across Laraig Ghru and back taking 7 and a half hours. Dave P went to the Creag Pitridh group on his own and got back to Mill quite late [*Dave describes his day below*]. Where Jim D, Brian and Chris & Janice walked on the Saturday is lost in the mists of time other than Chris and Janice walked somewhere together.

Most people were back at the cottage before or soon after dark, with only Dave P returning a bit later. Sharon had baked a ginger cake [*seems like I missed out on a cake for the second year running...*] that was enjoyed by all before, the now traditional, fireworks display organised by Dave P.

Sunday

A bit of a misty morning at Mill Cottage put a bit of a damper on Sunday hill plans. Not sure if anyone did anything.

Dave Paton takes over describing his weekend:

Mill Cottage has a lot of attractions for me. It has a well equipped kitchen, with more than adequate refrigeration (for a change). The lounge is comfy and warm (sometimes too warm) with the real fire. It's ideally situated as



a lot of hills are within reach. However, I also like it because it's not too far away and for those of us who have to work on a Friday it means that we can get there in reasonable time without having to rush.

Being close it also means I don't mind going up on my own in my car, giving me flexibility and the chance to do my own thing without having to rely on others or to hope that someone else wants to do the same as me. Asking around before the meet it was clear that I was going to be walking on my own.

The tops I had in mind were Beinn a'Chlachair, Geal Charn and Craig Pitridh on the south side of Loch Laggan. It had been a long time since I had done them and I didn't remember it being a long day. It turned out to be a lot

email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk

longer than I remembered. I think I must have used a bike the other times. A bike would certainly have shortened my day!

The walk in is straight forward along a very good land rover track (I was already thinking a bike would have been handy) and it didn't take me long to get to Lochan na h-Earba. At first I thought I was going to have to turn back as from a distance it looked as if the track was completely flooded. However, as I got closer I could see that the track was still above water. From there the path heads up to the bealach between Beinn a'Chlachair and Geal Charn.

Cameron McNeish describes this as a rough path, but to me it seemed a pretty good stalkers' path. However, he seems to describe two different routes up Beinn a'Chlachair in his book, one in the text and a different one in the route summary in the margin, and gets them mixed up. So.. that's another apparent error by our ex Glasgow cop for Olly to mention in his next tirade against the great man.

McNeish also describes these hills as 'lacking in grandeur'. In this he is not wrong, but on a good day, like the one I was having, it's still a pretty good walk.

From the bealach, which gave great views south to Loch Pattak and the Drumochter hills to the south, I climbed a short steep section to the broad ridge of Beinn a'Chlachair. The ridge seems a bit relentless but I eventually reach the summit where I could sit, relax, enjoy the views and have some lunch. The sun had actually come out and it was looking good. Despite the sun it felt pretty cold and I was forced to put on gloves as I left the summit and made my way back to the bealach.



Once back on the stalkers path I retraced my steps for a short distance before taking another stalkers path which heads between Geal Charn and Craig Pitridh. I followed this for a short while before heading directly up to the summit of Geal Charn. By this time I had lost the sun and I didn't linger long on the summit before heading for the coll between this and Creag Pitridh. I'm always amazed how short a climb it is from here to the summit. With some of the recent re-classifications of the Munros I'm surprised that this has survived (still a tick's a tick!).



On the summit I could see that the sun was just about to dip below the horizon and realised that it was going to be dark before I got back to the car. However, once on the track the going was easy and I only needed my head torch for the last 20 minutes, getting back to the car at 6.00pm.

I was glad to get back to the cottage have a shower and something to eat. Later in the evening we had our 'traditional' firework display, which was pretty impressive. After that it was back to do some serious relaxing with a bottle of wine. As usual, as the night went on and the alcohol took effect, we discussed how best to put the

world to rights. This prompted Barry to ask "Is it always like this?", I wish I could have said no.

Winter Slide Show Programme 2014 – 2015

Date	Show	Date	Show	Date	Show
23/10/14	Richard Christie Ladakh three peaks	20/11/14	Bill Gray A to Z of Adventure	18/12/14	Chris Butcher The Slovakian Tatras
22/01/15	Wattie Ramage Retirement the First Year	05/02/15	Available	05/03/15	Available

2015 Meet Dates	
Jan 9 th /10 th	Calluna, Fort William
Feb 13 th /14 th	The Pottery Bunkhouse, Laggan
March 13 th /14 th	Ling Hut, Torridon
April 10 th /11 th	Muir of Invery, Braemar
May 1 st /2 nd /3 rd	Station Bunkhouse, Plockton
June 5 th /6 th	Ariundle Centre, Strontian
July 10 th /11 th	Strawberry Cottage, Glen Affric
August 7 th /8 th	Glenbrittle Memorial Hut, Skye
Sept 4 th /5 th	Sail Mhor, Dundonnell
October 2 nd /3 rd	Inver Croft, Achnasheen
November 6 th /7 th	Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge
December TBC	Christmas Meet, tba

Remember the Cioch Club's new Thursday night venue is the [Thistle Tavern](#) in Baldridgeburn, Dunfermline



Merry Christmas!



email contributions to newsletter@cioch.co.uk