



# grampian speleological group NEWSLETTER



No. 167

May 2017

## New Discovery : Flood Cave (Uamh Nan Tuil), Applecross

NGR NG 71774 43786

After waiting all Winter, Alex Latta and Derek Pettiglio finally managed to get to Applecross. On April 4th 2017, they managed to find out what if anything lay at the bottom of Alex's Dig....there was !

After some hours of further work, needed just to get inside, Alex, Derek and David Morrison who came in the afternoon to assist, managed to finally get into 82.5 m of cave passage, in places well decorated with Stalactites, Curtains and Straws. A full write up will be in October's GSG Bulletin but why not come to the already published GSG meet up at Applecross on May 27th-29th 2017 and see it for yourself; along with the other recent discovery close by ?



Alex Latta at the entrance to Flood Cave. AL

(No SRT required for this particular cave and only required for Liars Sink if you intend to climb up to the high level at the terminal end in Canada Chamber).

**Alex Latta**

## Mendip Migration

This year's Mendip Migration was held 20 April to 2 May. 18 faces turned up, 3 based in Scotland, the rest from south of the border (Imo, Rob and Rowan made a visit Sat night - Sunday). Digging was in UNCABAC, Rana, Ice Cream and there was a dive session in Knockers as well as the odd visit to ANUSC. The weather for the first few days was poor (started warm with the odd shower, then 3 days of occasional wintry showers and reports of blizzards elsewhere in Scotland) but the weather improved in the second week (with sunshine and gentle but cool breeze).

Early reports from Stuart Lindsay and his team digging at UNCABAC are of a small 8 m extension to the dig finding a 5 m wide 2 m high chamber. In all 9 visits were made to UNCABAC over 100 man hours. Over 2.5 tonnes in 120 plus loads were removed from the entrance area with still about half a tonne to remove to get back to Migration level of May 2016 and about 104 or so bags, some quite big, removed from perineum. A metal filter trap was fitted at the entrance and on leaving Alex Latta and Stu complemented this with heavy rocks and a couple of bags of gravel. Summer visits are planned.

Throughout the week, Derek Guy and Stuart Lindsay (with Alex on the last day) modified the riverbed exit/canal. On day 1, it was a wall of large rocks over head-height when standing outside the entrance, the canal behind was still there, but silted/blocked a little bit where lack of water pressure failed to take stuff downstream. Approximately 3 tonnes of debris removed from the entrance to 10-15 metres downstream. The canal is now almost level with the entrance lip.

**Stuart Lindsay**



Toby on the rope and harness crossing, 'Footloose Traverse' 10 m up at the top of Waterfall Chamber. TS

## **Liar's Sink (Poll Breugair)**

Toby - with others - has continued his colourful survey of Poll Breugair (see the next GSG Bulletin). Over 250 m has now been surveyed including some beautifully decorated chambers, oxbows and stream passage. A bolted route has now been created which allows the adventurous to traverse to an upper passage (approximately 50 m long) above the waterfall chamber.

Although both the upstream and downstream ends of the cave are blocked by collapses and boulder chokes Toby is confident there is more cave to find. Hardy explorers are needed to search the rest of the valley. A meet in Applecross is planned for 27-28 May.

**John Crae**

## **T-Shirt Logo**

The club already possesses a heraldic 'badge' (The Caving Boot), and a coat of arms, the ladder climbing tiger. In an attempt to bring things up to date, Thomas Arbenz has created a new logo, featuring the club tiger ably indulging in SRT by wrapping the rope around one paw (a technique well in tune with some of the club's 'gung ho' members!)

Before proceeding to manufacture, it would be wise to obtain reaction from members. Only if a sufficient number of requests come forward will we proceed to order stock. The plan would be, initially, to go for a printed transfer, rather than embroidered, logo, as shown in the picture, but in full colour. The saltire is white with a blue background, the tiger in predominantly black and white with highlights in yellow, and the helmet is red. All captions are black. If this proves popular, we may consider extending to polo shirts and sweatshirts and, if demand is high enough, embroidered logos.

First, we need feedback: would you like a T-shirt(s)? If so, what size? Comments, on any of the colours, colour of T-shirt etc. are welcome.



**Goon**

## **March Hut Meet**

Visit to UNCABAC making sure to reinstate the boulder wall at the entrance, then stomp round ANUSC testing SCRO's cave and surface radios. The sink at Cave of the Innocent Child was taking a lot of water. Connection achieved between the far end of ANUSC and a surface station above the waterfall but no connection from the cave to a surface connection at the cave entrance. Communication was however relayed via surface radio so in the event of a rescue messages can still reach the cave entrance. A brief visit was also made to the undercuts in the valley side just below the waterfall.

**John Crae**

## **Anything on the Telly?**

Yes, us! Again! The Group is proving ever popular with television production companies and following the Tori Herridge 'Walking Through Time' documentary for Channel 4 in May, we were approached yet again, this time by the BBC to perform an 'Ident' (a short group activity prefacing a programme – you will I'm sure have seen the Brecon Mountain Rescue team, the wheelchair rugby players and the adult sea swimming group on BBC 1), arising from their 'One-ness' theme. They filmed at least two idents in Edinburgh in March, and following a day's location scouting, where they were shown a number of cave sites, settled on Well Cave in the East Wemyss group, for the actual shoot.

As requested, a group of nine showed up, featuring Suzanne Peggie, Andrew Morgan, Ross Davidson, Annie Audsley, Alan Jeffreys, and Mike O'Driscoll from the GSG and, to make up the gender – and age! – range, three from GUPA, Andrew Chan, Abigail Pied, and Sarah McWhinney. Dressed in full SRT gear, we pranced around the chamber in Well Cave and looked suitably hard for the punters. As we were apparently setting off into the mysterious unknown, this ident will probably be used to preface serious drama, rather than 'Pointless' or 'Match of the Day'.

Scarcely had the dust settled on this venture, when we were contacted by Tern Films of Glasgow, who are planning a new series for documentary man, Paul Murton, who has just concluded a number of episodes on Scottish islands. The new programmes will be on Scottish lochs, and since Loch Assynt will feature, naturally they thought it a good idea if Paul went down one of the caves at the head of the loch – i.e. Traligill. We have preliminarily arranged to have a trip into Cnoc nan Uamh, hopefully as far as Landslip Chamber and possibly including the Waterslide. Filming will take place in mid-June, to feature no more than four GSG members in front of camera, although others are welcome to help behind the scenes as it were. If you are interested, please contact Goon who is acting as liaison with Tern Films.

**Goon**

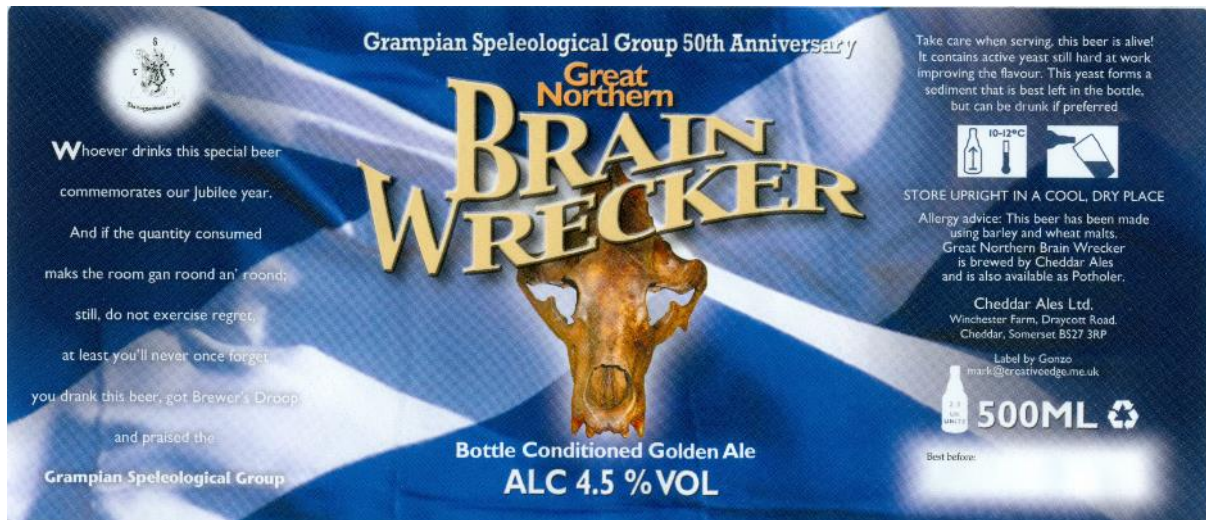
## **April Hut Meet**

Although the March Hut Meet was well attended, the 'Hut Meets' may need to be re-branded after the low turn-out on 8-9 April. Only three appeared for this weekend. Martin Hayes and John Crae took advantage of the brief spell of good weather and an early arrival and walked or clambered along both sides of the gorge between Allt Poll an Droighinn and Inchnadamph Lodge on Friday night. While Chris Gallagher joined us on Saturday for a circular tour of the Traligill Valley up to Coul Dubh before returning to investigate Allt Poll an Droighinn in the gorge below the concrete ford. Report and survey of Uamh nan Caluman, Cripple's Canyon and the elusive Begba Hole to follow in a future GSG Bulletin.

Please note: Hut Meets are not for Hut Building (unless you want to). They are pre-booked weekends where GSG members and guests can make use of the Hut without worrying about large groups of non-members booking most of the bunks.

**John Crae**

## More Beer, Vicar?



Members will recall that as part of our Jubilee celebrations in 2011, we arranged a bulk purchase of Potholer Beer from Cheddar Ales (4.5% vol.), resplendent with our own 'Great Northern Brain Wrecker' label. The product proved very popular and we rapidly ran out of all the bottles delivered.

One after-effect was that we were left with a considerable roll of unused labels which, although specific to the 50th anniversary are, it seems to me, perfectly adequate for a fresh issue of said beer. It is therefore proposed to arrange a deal with Cheddar Ales for a good supply of Potholer to which will be affixed our Jubilee label. These will then be available to members. Cheddar Ales have been contacted and are very amenable to this suggestion, so watch this space!

**Goon**

## AGM 2017

The AGM was held at Edinburgh Central Library on 13 February (the full minutes and various reports are published on the GSG website in the Document Archive). Derek Pettiglio generously volunteered to take over as Tacklemaster. Andy Peggie took over from Suzanne as Secretary. We are still looking for a new Newsletter editor. Volunteers could take on a single edition with assistance from the current editor. Any assistance in gathering news for the Newsletter would be appreciated. A good, active year for caving in Scotland was reported and in India Krem Puri was pushed to 8.5 km making it India's longest sandstone cave.

Action is needed by all members to engage with prospective new members, with the proposal of a possible mentoring scheme. We must strive to attract younger members. To this end we are actively working with the Glasgow University Potholing Association (GUPA) to support their trips and to welcome them on GSG meets. A possible monthly Glasgow pub meet and social meets in Elphin were suggested. Goon made his now annual plea for members to record all their caving trips (and referred to the recent article in the Belfry Bulletin). Failure to do this results in a great deal of information being lost. If it is not recorded it might as well not have happened.

The area around Pitlochry was suggested by Bob and Rosemary as a good location for the GSG Annual Dinner soiree and a departure from the norm. This late suggestion was favoured by the attendees gaining a majority of the votes and Suzanne Robinson agreed to look for a suitable venue. The Annual Dinner will be held on October 28th 2017.

**Pete Dowsell/Goon/Suzanne Robinson**

## **GSG Management Committee Meeting**

The regular committee meeting was held at Pete Dowswell's flat in Edinburgh on 15 March. All the usual suspects attended with the newly elected Tacklemaster, Derek Pettiglio as a welcome new addition, Andy Peggie shifting roles to take on the post of Secretary and Lucy Freem attending as a visiting ordinary member. Finance still good. And we are still getting a membership fee from our mysterious member whose address we do not know. GSG tackle is now held by Derek.

Please note: Ordinary members are welcome to attend all committee meetings. Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June (location to be confirmed).

**John Crae**

## **Club Website**

The GSG website was revamped some years ago ( see [www.gsg.org.uk](http://www.gsg.org.uk)) but had, even then, a few drawbacks and/or complications, not the least of which were that the designer now lives in the United States, and the software, Drupal, is not the easiest thing to deal with. Paramount in forward planning is, of course, inclusion of a photograph gallery at least as secure and flexible as the one designed by the late Pete Ireson.

Because of technical difficulties and the demands on individuals' time, the committee intend to hand the work over to a software and website design small business who have already stated they are familiar with the software and are very keen to assist us. What we need to know from you prior to a first meeting is: what do members want from the site (that is not already available)? What additional functions would be appreciated? What criticisms (or praise, we're not proud!) have you got that need ironing out?

In short, please let the committee know your thoughts so this essential work can be progressed.

**Goon**

## **Annual Dinner 2017**

There are three options in and around Pitlochry so far. The weekend of 28th October is the last weekend of the Enchanted Forest Event and so many places are busy and less willing to negotiate on price.

Option 1: McKay's Hotel. 3 courses and coffees £13:50. (Pub grub style) They can seat up to 100 in the back bar. The front bar is open to the public and is busy. There are no rooms available.

This hotel is next door to the Pitlochry Backpackers where rooms are £28:50 per person per night.

Option 2: Moulin Hotel. 3 courses and coffees £27-30 (perhaps negotiable to £25). They can seat a maximum of 60, but 40-50 would be more comfortable. There are rooms available at great expense. However, they are also a brewery, the beers look brilliant and they can organise a brewery tour and tasting. This one is 1/2 mile from the Backpackers in town.

Option 3: FSG Kindrogan Field Centre at Enochdhu.

<https://www.groupaccommodation.com/properties/fsc-kindrogan-perthshire-scotland#rates>

The Field centre is a bunk house 12 miles north of Pitlochry. I've spoken to their office and they could arrange a meal for us - the website says outside catering, but it could be arranged by the centre. They do have a bar and drying facilities. I'll pursue this for more information and prices. I'm sure we could still book a brewery tour with Moulin separately if anyone was interested.

I think that option 3 would suit us best, but I won't be there so please let me know which you would prefer and I will get things going [Members opinions needed by 29 May or sooner].

**Suzanne Robinson**

## **Tackle**

A request has been made for suitable second-hand overalls to be donated to the club for the use of guests and prospective new members. Donated overalls should be reasonably clean and intact.

A deposit scheme has been suggested where borrowers would lose their deposit if returned kit was damaged or required cleaning when returned. This would be mainly for SRT kits, overalls, ladders etc. This was agreed at £5 per use (for now and to be reviewed).

For now lost or mislaid kit is still at the Elphin Caving Centre (tool shed extension) but this may be looked at soon and chucked if not of use.

**John Crae/ Derek Pettiglio**

## **British Cave Rescue Council – Rescue Conference 2017**

Another reminder that the 2 yearly British Cave Rescue Conference is in South Wales this year, hosted by the South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team on evening of Friday 16th June to Sunday 18th June. There will be a full programme of lectures, workshops, above-ground demonstrations and below-ground exercises in Ogof Ffynnon Ddu. Accommodation will be available in the SWCC Penwyllt cottages, the camping field for tents, and with parking available for camper vans. Details at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/bcrc-cave-rescue-conference-2017-tickets-32619303214](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bcrc-cave-rescue-conference-2017-tickets-32619303214) or contact by e-mail: [BCRCconference@caverescue.org.uk](mailto:BCRCconference@caverescue.org.uk)

**Dave Warren**

## **Caves of Schiehallion**

In 1980 the Group published a guide to the vadose stream caves lying around the foot of Schiehallion Mountain in Perthshire. Although not the most popular caving area, the various systems are interesting and some of them possess remarkable beauty – not because of calcite formations, rather of sculptured forms of the very pleasing crystalline Blair Atholl limestones. Not a lot of discoveries have been made here since that book appeared, but the surface topography has changed dramatically with heavy forestry operations, resulting in some open moorland regions now being covered by mature fir trees, and others where the reverse is true, felling revealing ground which might house unknown cave systems. In fact, the south flank of Schiehallion would benefit from a much more thorough examination as limestone exposures on the north, east and west points of the mountain could also appear here. The new discoveries at Trinafour also come into this caving area.

Some years back, Pete Ireson and Mark Lonnen set out to update and improve the guide, including thumbnail photographs of all entrances. This online manuscript had been progressed a good distance but, possibly resulting from Pete's tragic death, went onto the 'back burner'. We are looking for a volunteer (or more than one) to continue this work and bring the document into a publishable state. Due to the low profile of the Schiehallion cave region, this should result in an online pdf rather than a hard copy publication. Interested parties should contact the committee.

**Goon**

## **Hut Coin Meter**

The new improved pound coin will be in circulation from 28th March. It is a different size and shape to the present coin and the coin meter in the hut needs to be replaced before the changeover to the new coin is completed in October. There will be a cost of £160 to replace the meter which will also allow us to reset the meter to reflect the current charges from SSE.

Until we change it you should take plenty of the old variety of pound coins with you for your stay in the hut.

**Ivan Young**

## **Cave Database**

Despite delays, due to work and crossing e-mails, progress is slowly being made on moving the Scottish Cave Database to a more user friendly format. The space has now been arranged on the BCA server and a preliminary version the SQL format database may be ready by the mid-summer BBQ.

**John Crae**

## **North West Highlands Geopark**

The North West Highlands Geopark is in serious financial difficulties following the loss of its government grants and a shortfall in its work to become sustainable and financially viable. An appeal has been launched to obtain sufficient funds to keep it going over the next year. Please visit <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/love-the-geopark> and consider a donation.

**Bob Mehew**

The Geopark is a charity set up and managed by the local community, promoting the region, putting on activities, writing interpretation and opening a visitor centre. It has two full-time staff members and achieved UNESCO recognition in 2015 after 10 years of work and is assessed every four years on the quality of our tourism, education program and regional economic development (next assessment 2019).

In 2017, they plan to upgrade the visitor centre (The Rock Stop at Unapool near Kylesku) with Virtual Reality exhibits to 'Explore Deep Time' and visit parts of the Geopark not otherwise easily accessible. More 'Pebble Routes' have been produced to drive or cycle and learn about the landscape. There are weekly guided walks and a big Geo-heritage festival is planned for October as well as a Climbing Festival (13-16 October) and Earth Science Week (also October but date to be confirmed). Soil fertility research is being carried out with the University of Stirling and Ullapool High School. Project funding is in place to do this, but support is needed to ensure core activities (staff, office and day to day running costs) are fully funded.

Currently £9,956 has been raised out of a £70,000 target. The crowdfunder website has a short video presentation by various in which Elphin Tea Rooms and the Bone Caves at Inchnadamph, among other Assynt beauty spots, make brief appearances. All pledges need to be made by 2:10 pm on 15 May 2017.

**John Crae and the 'Love the Geopark' website**

## **Trips & Expeditions**

May has trips to Trinafour and Applecross. While the Trinafour trip will be a day trip only, there will be the opportunity to explore the wider area later in the year as this will be one of the main caving trips at the annual dinner in Pitlochry.

Bridge Meets at the Bilston Viaduct to be arranged will be on the first Wednesday evening in each month but as there are equipment and rigging issues, numbers to be confirmed at least a week in advance at Leslie Bar's on a Tuesday Night or by phone or e-mail.

Linked to the Midsummer BBQ and with final date and number to be confirmed, John Crae is planning on rounding up a few archaeologists and others from Historic Environment Scotland to visit the Bone caves and the various find sites in Claonaite 7. GSG volunteers will be needed to shepherd relatively unfit novice cavers down Rana Hole.

Eight GSG members are heading out to an area of Kyrgyzstan on 14th July. We will be prospecting for new caves in a very promising new area in the Turkestan Mountains, last visited by cavers in 1979, and only visited once. Local shepherds have already indicated that they have 5 entrances to show us.

## **Bridge of Allan Copper Mine**

Following on from initial visits in April 2016, Mark Stanford, Dave Walsh, Danny Shimmik, Derek Pettiglio, and Alex Latta visited Airthrey Copper Mine near Bridge of Allan in January 2017. With Alex on the surface as safety coordinator, they completed the full length of the mine, something not done in over 200 years. A full report will appear in the next GSG Bulletin.

**Mark Stanford**

## **GSG Publications**

‘Caves of Assynt’ still delayed.

Copies of Jim Salvona’s “A Guide to the Awe-Inspiring Raasay Fissures” are available from Raasay Post Office, or Goon may be persuaded to print a copy on request.

**Publications** (prices to non-members in brackets)

Decades in the Dark	£20.00 + £2.00 p&p	De Profundis	£3.00 + £0.58 p&p
Caves of Skye	£6.00 (£8.50)		
Jim's Festschrift - A Wanderer in Dens and Caves of the Earth	£5.00 + £0.75 p&p	Buddy Reading (Caving in Couplets)*	£2.00 (£2.50)
Caves of Applecross and Kishorn	£4.00 (£6.00)	NAMHO Field Booklets	£2.50 (£4.00) set
Mines in Scotland	£4.00 (£5.00)		
	GSG Ties	(Old)	£5.00
		(2012 Vintage)	£10.00

\* out of print – photocopies available.

AND –	Cave Pearls of Meghalaya – Volume 1	£26.00 or £30.00 with postage.
	Cave Pearls of Meghalaya – Volume 2	£35.00 or £39.00 with postage.

**Alan L. Jeffreys, Recorder**

## **2017 Meets List and Events**

May	7		Trinafour Caves
	19-22	Assynt	GSG Family Meet
	27-28		Applecross
June	2-4	Yorkshire	GSG Dales Meet
	17-18	Assynt	GSG Mid-summer BBQ
July	15-16	Assynt	GSG Hut Meet
	21-23	Aberystwyth	Joint Trip with BEC and SMCC
August	12-13	Assynt	GSG Hut Meet
September	8-10	Assynt	GSG Family Meet
	16	Assynt	SCRO Training Exercise
October	7-8	Assynt	GSG Hut Meet
	21-22	TBA	GSG Annual Dinner
November	11-12	Assynt	GSG Hut Meet (with GUPA)
December	9-10	Assynt	GSG Christmas Dinner
	28-29	Assynt	GSG New Year's Meet



## **Roadworks on the A9**

The first phase of the A9 Dualling project (Kincaig to Dalraddy) seems to be approaching completion (Summer 2017). A 40 mph speed limit is in place for the whole 7.5 km length of the works. The second phase of works has been announced at Slocht where preparatory ground stabilisation works will be underway for seven weeks. Temporary traffic lights are to be set up on short alternate single file traffic sections.

**BBC News/ Scotsman**

## **Archaeologists discover new cave believed to have held Dead Sea Scrolls**

Archaeologists have discovered a new cave that is believed to have hidden Dead Sea Scrolls, the first time in 60 years that such a cave has been found. Researchers from Israel's Hebrew University now say they have found a 12th cave inside a cliff near Qumran in the occupied West Bank. No actual scrolls were discovered in the cave and the university said it believed that Bedouin looters had taken them sometime in the 1950s.

**Telegraph, 9 Feb 2017**

## **DNA left in cave soils can reveal ancient human occupants**

Fifty thousand years ago, a Neandertal relieved himself in a cave in present-day Belgium [sorry but I had to include this article just for the first sentence **JC**], depositing, among other things, a sample of his DNA. The urine clung to minerals in the soil and the faeces eventually decomposed. But traces of the DNA remained, embedded in the cave floor, where earth falling from the cave's ceiling and blowing in from outside eventually entombed it. Now, researchers have shown they can find and identify such genetic traces of both Neandertals and Denisovans, another type of archaic human, enabling them to test for the presence of ancient humans even in sites where no bones have been found.

**Science, 27 April 2017**

## **Lochinver Wildfire** [Literally hot of the press as I type. **JC**]



Dozens of firefighters battled wildfire that tore across the hillside between Lochinver and Suilven. The blaze broke out on 9.56 pm Wednesday 3 May. Seven fire appliances from Lochinver, Scourie, Achiltibuie, Ullapool and Kinlochbervie monitored the fire front overnight to ensure local properties were adequately protected. The latest incident follows other fires near Lochinver, Dornoch, Cluanie, Balintore and Loch Broom and on Skye and Benbecula.

**STV & BBC News**

## **Assynt News**

### **Resurfacing**

The road through Elphin has been resurfaced and Smiley (Speed Check) Signs have been erected at either end of the village. When last checked (April), there were no road markings but these may have been added by now. The new tarmac extends about 2 m into the driveway at Taigh na Faimh (Elphin Caving Centre) but might be considered slightly narrow by users of larger vehicles.

**StuL / John Crae**

### **Elphin Tea Room**

Ann and Helen O'Keefe, from Western Australia, re-opened the Elphin Tearooms on Thursday 13 April, just in time for the Easter weekend. Ann only moved to north west Sutherland in March. Helen is a mining engineer who graduated from the West Australian School of Mines and went on to work first at Kalgoorlie and then with a mining consulting company in Perth (we could possibly enlist her as a cave digger). At the end of March 2015, Helen relocated from Australia to Scotland. It was not long before she was appointed coordinator of the North West Highlands Geopark's new Rock Stop coffee shop and exhibition at Unapool, Assynt. But Helen had also spotted that the Elphin Tearooms were for sale and felt it would be an ideal business opportunity. Her partner, Brendan O'Hanrahan, a land management consultant and a director of the Scottish Crofting Association is standing as an Independent candidate for the north, west and central Sutherland ward in the May 4 local authority elections.

**Northern Times**

### **Possible New Crofts at Ledbeg**

The Assynt Foundation is considering options for affordable homes on crofts of varying size and type with potential sites including Tileathdoire, Drumrunie, Ledbeg, Cnocnaneach and Glencanisp. These crofts would be established and regulated according to crofting law. A public meeting was held at Lochinver on 7 December 2016. Brendan O'Hanrahan, a member of the board of the Assynt Foundation and the Assynt Community Association, has produced two plans for crofts at Ledbeg – one for 6 crofts, 3 larger and 3 smaller, one for 4 larger crofts. An area is identified for housing etc associated with the crofts, nearer the road. No decision has been made so far.

**Assynt Foundation**

### **Broadband**

Phone users between Glencanisp and Lochinver complained for months about the failure of the phone lines with some users being without phones since 10 January. Reports were that a 17 mile length of cable needed to be dug up involving road restrictions and traffic lights. An Openreach spokesman said: "A small number of customers in Lochinver are experiencing disruption to their phone services due to a fault within a cable which runs under Culag Road (A837). The existing underground chamber, which houses the cable is full and 72 metres of it needs to be rebuilt." Openreach agreed to begin work on March 24 so this work should now be complete.

**Northern Times**

Highland Community Broadband are currently testing their site at Morefield Hill north-west of Ullapool. Their control software is functional and they are gathering data on the performance of the transmitters and customer equipment. The Wireless Broadband will serve all Ullapool, Loch Broom, Little Lochbroom, Coigach and up to Elphin and supply a minimum 50Mbps Next Generation Broadband (NGA) service. Installation from approx £100 (Including Router) Self-installation approx £50.

**Highland Community Broadband**

## Elphin Caving Centre

Confirmed Taigh nam Famh Bookings

(contact Hut Warden Pete Dowswell or Deputy Hut Warden Imogen Furlong for latest information)

Date (nights)		Group	Size
<b>2017</b>			
May	6-11	TSG	4
	12-18	CPC	12
	19-22	GSG Family Meet	10
	27-3 June	CPC/ Yorkshire MC	15
June	4-18	Nevis Hill Walkers (Provisional)	10
	17-18	GSG Midsummer BBQ	??
	18-19	Historic Environment Scotland (Provisional)	5
	24-1 July	York University	15
July	15-16	GSG Hut Meet	??
	28-11 Aug	BPC Summer Meet	15
August	12-13	GSG Hut Meet	??
September	1-4	Nevis Hill Walkers	4
	8-10	GSG Family Meet	??
	15-17	SCRO	??
	22-24	Dundee NCR Mountaineering Club	10
October	7-8	GSG Hut Meet	??
November	11-12	GSG Hut Meet (with GUPA)	??
December	9-10	GSG Xmas Dinner	??
	28-1Jan	GSG New Year's Meet	??

**Note:** '??' for GSG/SCRO events means the entire hut has been reserved for members and guests.

Hut fees are £8 per night for non-members and £4 for GSG and BEC members, students, unemployed, children and OAPs. Camping is permitted at any time but the reduced rate of £4 applies only when the hut is full. Day fees are £2 for members and £4 for non-members.

If you want to stay in the hut, please contact Imogen Furlong who is responsible for hut bookings (Tel. Home:- 07532 388474. E-mail:- [imo.furlong@gmail.com](mailto:imo.furlong@gmail.com)) – to check if there will be space. For any other hut related issues contact the Hut Warden – Pete Dowswell. (Tel. Home:- 01463 229250, e-mail:- [hutbookings@gsg.org.uk](mailto:hutbookings@gsg.org.uk)).

## **Hut Maintenance**

Julian Walford has fitted the agreed fire regulation items, fire escape signage and door closers. Members will notice a slight green glow. We are assured this is the fire escape signs. A new lawn mower has been purchased and should now be in working order.

Construction of new ventilated wood store. Simple design required using existing materials.

Door to be fitted between old tool shed and extension. Existing external door (stored in tool shed) could be re-used.

Floor cupboards and workbench to be fitted in Tool Shed extension. Design required. The wall shelving has been fitted to the back wall of the shed.

Replacement of door and window at drying room lobby (by joinery contractor). Replacing the bargeboard/soffit at the edge of the roof above has also been suggested.

Replacement of door to conservatory (by joinery contractor).

Box shelving to be fitted in drying room lobby.

Replacement of kitchen cupboards and repositioning/redesign of shelving.

Re-grading of driveway. Concrete surface suggested with cross drain at upper gateway.

Peter Dowswell is looking for local tradesmen to do the work not suitable for DIY.

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### **REMINDERS**

- 1. Inform the membership secretary (Ivan Young) of any changes of address or contact details, check what appears on the GSG web server and send any corrections to Ivan.**
  - 2. Send news items to John Crae for the Newsletter, longer items to Alan Jeffreys for the Bulletin. If in doubt send to both.**
  - 3. Borrowed kit should be returned clean and dry. If possible record the length of time lamps are in use (do not recharge lamps before returning them). Do not allow lamps to remain in wet bags.**
  - 4. Consider standing for election to the GSG Committee at the AGM, attending committee meetings as an ordinary member or shadowing a committee post (acting as deputy committee member and becoming familiar with the duties of one or more of the committee posts).**
  - 5. Digital versions of all Bulletins, Newsletters and other official communications can be downloaded from the GSG website as alternative to paper (saving the GSG money on both postage and publication costs).**
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