

# A Love Affair With SCOTLAND'S MOUNTAINS

Welcome to the second Museum Monthly, a newspaper of general interest from the Rosendale Museum that takes a look at the way different people in Rawtenstall relate to nature. This edition, 'A love affair with Scotland's mountains', is a collage of images, texts and personal records from Diana Maddison and Robert Macdonald, both keen mountaineers and members of The Munro Society.

Thanks to Robert and Diana for sharing their thoughts with us, and to Orbital Design for sponsoring the project. The next edition of this paper will be published on the 1st of June.



*In the Highlands it is mountain after mountain, mountain after mountain, for ever and ever.* (Thomas Wilkinson)  
At 5.30am on Nov. 11th 2009 I emerged from the warmth and comfort of my sleeping bag and was greeted by the gentle tinkling of water as it splashed from rock to rock. My head-torch showed the tent to be encrusted in a thick covering of ice. Switching my torch off I gazed up to a cavern of cloudless sky illuminated only by an infinitude of stars and a full moon, by the light of which I was able to prepare a cup of tea. Nothing moved in this prehistoric landscape of Scotland's most remote group of Munros, and I said to myself, "this is mine, all mine and nature gives it freely". I am not ashamed to say that I wept, overawed by the wonder of the moment.



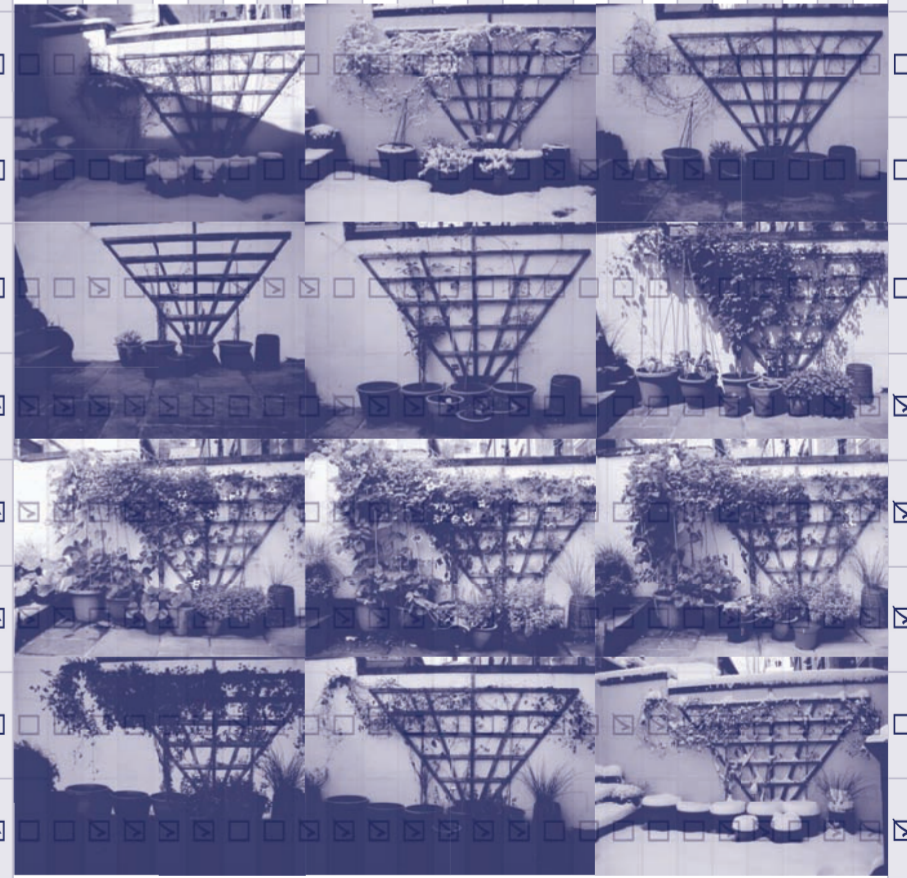
The Aral Sea used to be the fourth largest fresh water lake in the world. From north to south it was over 400kms, east to west 185kms. Passenger ships used to ply its waters, and it supported a large fishing industry. In the 1960's the Soviet Union authorities decided that Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan would be used to grow cotton. This would require irrigation, so the rivers feeding the Aral Sea were diverted. The resulting environmental disaster is one of the worst the world has known. In the south, what was once the sea-bed is now a desert, and local communities inhabit ghost towns.



Many people start out with the idea of climbing all the Scottish Munros. To successfully complete the task is no mean achievement. There are 283 Munros and Diana completed her round on July 25th 2010 when she ascended Maol Chean-dearg. The photo of her on the summit cairn, captures that ultimate moment of joy, and some would say relief, at a job well done after 12 years of unstinting effort. A word of warning though, the skies are not always so clear and blue in the north of Scotland. *"The Mountaineering Council of Scotland recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death."*



At 6721ft Hoverla is the highest mountain in the Ukraine. It lies in the SW corner of the country, rather isolated and not easy to reach. First we took the overnight sleeper from Kiev to Ivano-Frankivsk, then a bus to within 20 or so miles of the mountain where we had to spend the night in a farmer's house. The next morning after various bus rides we started our ascent of the hill. The lower slopes were covered by thick deciduous woodland, a delight to walk through. Emerging from this forestation we were met by rather steep slopes which for all the world could have been the Cairngorms. There were outcrops of rocks, boulders and scree, but by and large the vegetation was more lush than the tundra we were used to on the Scottish mountains. To gain the summit took around two hours and once there we felt totally at home, because it was drizzling constantly and thick cloud prevented us from seeing all the surrounding peaks. Apparently on a good day the views into Romania are said to be stunning. The flying of the national flag was something we were not used to on our mountains. We ate some bread and cheese and descended to where it was warmer.



How do you relate to nature? What shaped this relationship? What images and texts best describe this relationship? Do you ever collect anything from nature? Why do you do this? If you would like to add something to a future edition of this paper please send your thoughts to [kaspar@treacletheatre.co.uk](mailto:kaspar@treacletheatre.co.uk)

The newspaper of general interest is part of 'New light on old bones', a research project exploring the social history context for natural history exhibits at the Rosendale Museum. More information can be found on the project blog: [newlightmanchester.wordpress.com](http://newlightmanchester.wordpress.com)



Mnt	Total	Date	Name	Alone	Company	View	Cloud	Fine	Sun	Dry	Overcast	Rain	Snow	Wind Zero	Wind Med	Wind Strong
1	0	20-Apr-03	Carn Liath													
2	0	17-Sep-04	Meall Corranach													
3	1908	13-Sep-06	Carn Mor Dearg													
4	0	21-Nov-06	Drieh													
5	0	22-Nov-06	Carn Bamoch													
6	0	22-Nov-06	Broad Cairn													
7	1916	23-Nov-06	Mayar													
8	0	29-Jan-07	Carn Dearg													
9	1926	29-Jan-07	Sgor Galbhre													
10	0	4-Jul-07	Ben Lui													
11	0	4-Jul-07	Beinn a'Chleibh													
12	0	4-Jul-07	Ben Oss													
13	0	4-Jul-07	Beinn Dubhchraigh													
14	1971	5-Jul-07	Ben Challum													
15	1977	3-Aug-07	Stuchan Lochain													
16	0	4-Sep-07	Beinn a' Chochuill													
17	0	4-Sep-07	Beinn Eunaich													
18	0	5-Sep-07	Stob Diarnh													
19	1981	5-Sep-07	Ben Cruachan													
20	0	28-Oct-07	Sgurr Choinnich													
21	0	28-Oct-07	Sgurr a' Chaorachain													
22	1984	29-Oct-07	Maolte Lunndaidh													
23	0	26-Nov-07	Sgurr a' Mhaoraich													
24	0	27-Nov-07	Sron a' Choire Ghairbh													
25	0	27-Nov-07	Meall na Teanga													
26	0	28-Nov-07	Sgurr nan Coireachan													
27	1989	28-Nov-07	Sgurr Thulin													
28	0	18-Dec-07	Beinn Eibhinn													
29	0	18-Dec-07	Aonach Beag													
30	0	18-Dec-07	Geal-Charn													
31	0	19-Dec-07	Bheinn Bheoil													
32	0	19-Dec-07	Ben Alder													
33	0	20-Dec-07	Cruach Ardairn													
34	0	20-Dec-07	Beinn Tulachain													
35	0	21-Dec-07	An Caisteal													
36	0	21-Dec-07	Beinn a' Chroin													
37	0	22-Dec-07	Beinn na Lap													
38	2000	23-Dec-07	Ben Vorlich													
39	2001	22-Jan-08	Sgurr Elide Mor													
40	2002	27-Feb-08	Ben Vane													
41	0	31-Mar-08	Sgurr Dhearg													
42	2004	31-Mar-08	Sgurr Dhoneuil													
43	0	29-Apr-08	Meall nan Ceapraichean													
44	0	29-Apr-08	Cona' Mheall													
45	0	29-Apr-08	Beinn Dearg													
46	0	30-Apr-08	Seanna Braigh													
47	0	30-Apr-08	Eidlich nan Clach Geala													
48	0	1-Mai-08	An Colleachan													
49	0	1-Mai-08	Meall Gorm													
50	0	1-Mai-08	Sgurr Mor													
51	0	1-Mai-08	Beinn Liath Mhor Fannaich													
52	0	2-Mai-08	Meall a' Chrasgaidh													
53	0	2-Mai-08	Sgurr nan Clach Geala													
54	0	2-Mai-08	Sgurr nan Each													
55	0	2-Mai-08	Sgurr Breac													
56	0	2-Mai-08	A' Chailleach													
57	0	4-Mai-08	Fionn Bheinn													
58	0	5-Mai-08	Beinn Liath Mhor													
59	0	6-Mai-08	Spidean Coire nan Clach													
60	0	6-Mai-08	Ruadh-Stac-Mor													
61	0	7-Mai														
62	0	8-Mai														
63	2025	9-Mai														
64	0	2-Jul														
65	0	2-Jul														
66	0	2-Jul														
67	0	3-Jul														
68	0	3-Jul														
69	0	3-Jul														
70	0	3-Jul														
71	0	3-Jul														
72	0	4-Jul														
73	0	4-Jul														
74	0	4-Jul														
75	0	4-Jul														
76	0	5-Jul														
77	2039	5-Jul														
78	0	1-Jul														
79	0	1-Jul														
80	2042	2-Jul														
81	0	25--														
82	0	25--														
83	0	26--														
84	0	26--														
85	0	27--														
86	0	27-Jul-08	Sgurr a' Ghreadaidh													
87	0	28-Jul-08	Sgurr Alasdair													
88	2050	29-Jul-08	Sgurr Dubh Mor													

Mnt	Total	Date	Name	Alone	Company	View	Cloud	Fine	Sun	Dry	Overcast	Rain	Snow	Wind Zero	Wind Med	Wind Strong
89	0	19-Aug-08	Binnin Beag													
90	0	19-Aug-08	Binnin Mor													
91	0	19-Aug-08	Na Gruagachan													
92	2054	20-Aug-08	Ben Nevis													
93	2055	27-Oct-08	Stob Aire Raineach													
94	0	30-Nov-08	A' Ghlas-bheinn													
95	2057	1-Dec-08	Beinn Mhada													
96	0	15-Dec-08	Geal Clam													
97	2059	15-Dec-08	A' Mhaonaich													
98	0	22-Feb-09	Beinn dlaimain													
99	0	22-Feb-09	Sgurrach Mhor													
100	0	23-Feb-09	Meall Mhuilich													
101	0	24-Feb-09	Carn na Caim													
102	2064	24-Feb-09	A' Bhuachanach Bheag													
103	0	31-Mar-09	Carn na Gabhar													
104	0	31-Mar-09	Braigh Coire Chruinn-bhailgain													
105	0	7-Apr-09	Beinn Dearg													
106	0	7-Apr-09	Carn a' Chlamain													
107	0	7-Apr-09	Lachlan Bheinn													
108	0	28-Apr-09	Beinn Mheall													
109	0	28-Apr-09	Meall Mhuilich													
110	0	29-Apr-09	Sgurr a' Ciche													
111	0	29-Apr-09	Gabh' Chioch Mhor													
112	0	29-Apr-09	Sgurr nan Coireachan													
113	0	29-Apr-09	Sgurr Mor													
114	0	1-Mar-09	The Scudle													
115	0	1-Mar-09	Sgurr a' Sgine													
116	0	2-Mar-09	Castealhubh													