



**What is the thing that most appeals to you, being on a hill?**

I would say just being there, out in the open for a few hours, in good company and enjoying it all. If the views and weather are good, that's an added bonus.

**What, so far, has given you most sense of achievement?**

In a hill-walking sense, probably climbing the 'big six' in what was a very long day, and doing it in the wrong boots! They happened to belong to John Barrowman. I'd put them on by mistake that morning, in the darkness of the bothy, and left before he had time to find out. I must say he was very good about it afterwards, especially since they had gone through 'that river' twice by the day's end. Some would say the fact that they were John Barrowman's boots was the only reason I managed to do the hills at all!

**If you were to build a wee cottage somewhere in the hills, where would you put it?**

My first reaction would be not to put it in the hills, but near the hills, and probably somewhere near Broughton Heights.

**We carry a fair amount of gear to keep us comfortable and track our whereabouts when we are out walking nowadays. What has still to be invented that you'd like to have?**

I'd have a replacement knee kit. A sort of DIY affair which I could buy in the chemist and fit myself. And I would like to have a walking pole with a light on the end of it!

**More generally speaking, what makes you feel good?**

When I'm leading a walk and people come to me at the end of the day and show their gratitude. Even though it might have been the good weather or the views that really made the day, it still gives me a good feeling.

**Do you have any heroes or heroines, people with qualities you really admire?**

Recently I read a book about the world's leading cyclist, Lance Armstrong. It's a super read and talks about how he overcame serious illness and what he went through to win the Tour de France no fewer than seven times. That's the kind of person who impresses me.

**How do you describe yourself Iain? You can have more than the usual three words!**

I can do it in one! - Unpredictable.

**Is there anyone, anything, or any event which at some point, made a difference to what you chose to do with your life or influenced your ideas deeply?**

Meeting Margaret, my wife, and sharing my life with her, and the pleasure we've had bringing up our daughters, Christine and Evelyn.

**You've asked lots of people this question, with some interesting response, so here goes; what really upsets Iain Pinkerton?**

What really annoys me? Well, lassies of fifteen coming out of school, smoking, young couples with wee ones using bad language in front of them, and inconsiderate drivers determined to get their own way!

**As a former editor of Packchat and also my mentor, what advice would you give Tom Addie as he takes over?**

Try to get material for each edition well in advance and encourage people to actively contribute so that the work of producing the newsletter is shared, and enjoy doing it!



**What kind of future would you like to see for Glasgow HF?**

I don't believe there's any need to worry about the future of HF. Numbers are good and as walking continues to become more and more popular, I'm sure HF will retain its position as the best walking club in Glasgow. As long as young people are prepared to do their bit by leading and filling the jobs required to keep the club running.....or should it be walking.



**What is your personal ambition? What are you champing at the bit to do? (your secret is safe with me)**

You mean apart from the new knees? Well, to be able to remember everything I've done so far and to enjoy again all of those huge walks and gallons of tea. I write this on the strength of what a good friend once told me, that once you retire you forget where you put everything! A good memory is my wish.

**How does it feel to be answering the questions instead of asking them?**

I thought it would be no bother, but I was wrong. I really had to think about my answers. So, to everyone to whom I have subjected this little bit of torture in the past, many thanks for putting yourselves on the line.

And thanks to you too, Iain Pinkerton.

*Elaine MacLean*