



## Chief reporter interviews.....

One of the most interesting and attractive aspects of walking in a Club is the company - the people you meet and

get to know. John McGugan is one of our most enduring members and an outstanding leader. There can't be one of us, whether we walk on Saturdays or Sundays, who hasn't enjoyed a day out courtesy of himself. In the latest of his occasional series, Iain Pinkerton has been finding out a bit more about John and his ideas.

**John, how long have you been a member of Glasgow HF?**

I think I joined in about 1962 so, about forty three years.

**Would you say that the Club is the best there is around?**

I would say, yes. After all, I haven't joined another one for thirty years!

**Could you name a favourite walk in Scotland?**

No. There are too many walks to have favourites. Some are better than others, but the weather, and the company I'm with, can change the walk into an interesting day out. It may be raining when you start, for example, then the sun comes out. That can be a great day.

**Have you walked in any other countries?**

Yes. Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. I even invaded Poland for a day, from the Czech Republic. I went to a place called Jelenia Go'ra.

**If you were given the opportunity to live anywhere else in Scotland, where would you choose?**

I fancy the Orkney Islands. I've been on holidays there, my great granny came from there and I have relatives there. But I've never been in winter. That could possibly change my mind.



## .....leading philosopher

**You have completed the Munros. Is there any other challenge you'd like to take on, the Corbetts maybe?**

I suppose I am doing the Corbetts, but not as a challenge, just as I come to them on my travels. I find I'm more interested in going to places and hills I've never been to, like parts of the Borders, Perthshire, Argyle and Aberdeenshire. I don't know if you'd call that a challenge but sometimes they're harder to get to as there are no guide books or paths.

**Who is your favourite singer or actor?**

I don't think I have any particular person. The nearest thing would be the Monty Python mob or Spike Milligan. Would you classify them as actors?

**What kind of music do you like?**

I like to think pretty varied: from classical to heavy metal - bands like Queen. It would be easier if you asked what I don't like, such as reggae and rap and words that rhyme with that!

**What do you watch on television?**

My family all laughed at this question as I hardly ever watch tv and do my 'grumpy old man' about soaps and programmes like Big Brother. I know about them because my wife watches the soaps and, one morning, I caught my daughter watching Big Brother. The programme was showing a man sleeping in bed. If that's entertainment on tv, no wonder I spend my time on the internet.

**Have you a hobby, away from walking?**

Computing. Doing, as they say, my family tree.

**What really upsets you?**

You mean apart from the tv? Just like any other grumpy old man - politics, the health service, trying to understand the female mind and other people's driving on the roads! Why can't they be like I am, a perfect driver?

**If you could change anything in society, what would it be?**

That's a hard one. I can't make up my mind. How either the Government or the Law in this country is run. But, since it's the same people who run both, namely the lawyers, it would have to be how the Law is run.

**Describe John McGugan in three words.**

Talks too much.

**Is there anyone in history, near or far, whom you admire?**

William Wallace.

**What's the best bit of advice you've ever had?**

A man I worked with, who I like to think of as my mentor, gave me a lot of good advice. One thing he used to tell me: "Don't listen to wit they say. Watch wit they dae".

**And do you have a bit of advice for any young person just taking up walking?**

Go and do as much as you can while you're young. It gets harder the older you get. The old knees start creaking and you wish you hadn't spent so much time in pubs. That can be done when you're older and you can bore people with your exploits of when you were young. By the way, that's in the contract for when you're an old man: annoying people in pubs.

**What about the future for the Club? Do you think it will need to change in any way?**

I'm a bit bothered about the age of the membership, particularly on a Saturday (including myself). We could fill a service bus and none of us pay a penny on an outing. I feel we will need to attract younger members. And I don't mean teenagers. Younger could be people in their forties. That's young for me now!

**Do you think Packchat serves a useful purpose within the Club? If not how could we improve it?**

Packchat is a good idea. It lets the membership know what's happening in the Club, particularly if they're not out on a regular basis. Also, it adds a bit of fun to the Club and the Editor is brilliant. (I have to say that or she won't let me in her car again.)

(Thank goodness some threats do work! Ed.)

Thanks John and happy walking

**Iain Pinkerton**

## Peanut Traybake

- ☼ Melt a block of cooking chocolate (milk)
- ☼ Mix in a small jar of crunchy peanut butter (available organic)
- ☼ Add eight ounces of digestive biscuits (crushed)
- ☼ Mix it all well together then press it into a tin
- ☼ Cover this by pouring another block of melted chocolate (white this time) over
- ☼ Sprinkle any remaining digestive crumbs on top
- ☼ Leave to set, possibly in the fridge.

Next time you're out with the Club, why not take along a little bit of home baking with you, as a treat for the group who are out that day. Just think how popular you'll be.

Here's one for you to look at. Maybe not the healthiest concoction, but you'll all be getting plenty of exercise. And, if anyone really doesn't like your culinary contribution, they'll never have the cheek to tell you. So why not? Have a go!