**Burns Meet Report 2025**

On the meet were: Brian, Jenny, Dale, Dot, Alex, Chris, Janet, Sheila, Tony, Oli, Val, Anne L, Neil, Anne Mc, Gordon, Helen, Bert, Karen, Frances and Rob.

A new venue for 2025 as we headed to Blackwater Hostel in Kinlochleven ( not Sheila’s favourite village). All arrived safely and the usual prep was done and while some ate in the hostel others made good use of the pub nearby.

We did our usual consulting of the weather forecasts which to no surprise offered different possibilities. MWIS forecast strong winds on top with a good chance of cloud free Munros. The met office suggested a good day with very light winds. In fact they were both correct!! We could see that the snow had almost completely vanished so we were able to ditch the ice axes and crampons. A small team of Bert, Karen, Val, Dale and Anne L set off from Callert, for Mam na Gualainn with the idea of walking along the ridge back to the hostel. After being battered by very high winds, they changed their plans and returned the same way. Sheila and Helen followed the same route but aborted before the summit after being blown over. Meanwhile, along the valley a bit, Dot, Brian and Jenny made an ascent of Na Gruagaichen. Strangely they only got a little wind once they were up on the summit ridge. Beautiful views on the way up and down but we could have been anywhere on the summit. A new Munro for Jenny, Dot did it over 40 years ago and this was Brian’s 3rd ascent. Tony and Neil headed up towards Blackwater Reservoir while Janet, Chris and Oli did a circular walk up to Loch Eilde Mor. Alex, Frances and Rob did local walks including up to the Grey Mare’s tail while Gordon and Anne checked out the views and cafes in Glencoe.

Frances and Rob did a great job with the tables while the cooking got underway. The haggis was addressed by Brian ( meat) and Anne ( veggie). After we had eaten, Sheila and Janet organised the evening entertainment. We were treated to some excellent songs, musical recitals and poems. There was new material and a few old favourites. What a talented crew.

We woke up to blue skies, sunshine and little to no wind. We were all showing our age by selecting low level walks. Bert, Karen, Dale, Sheila and Helen did the Grey Mare’s tail and Mamore lodge circuit, but I was disappointed to learn that none of them attempted to cross the river on the wire bridge. Jenny, Brian, Oli, Val, Janet and Chris opted for the Breklet trail in Ballachulish, while Dot, Alex, Neil and Tony headed for the hospital lochan in Glencoe. The others headed home.

A very enjoyable weekend although I must admit to still having very sore legs. At my age you pay a price for a steep descent!!

 Dot