

## Mountain Writing Competition 2022

### Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Poetry

#### Beinn Amour (Mountain Love)

By Julie Cottrell

Julie is a Clinical Psychologist who, in her spare time around three teenagers, enjoys walking in the Scottish countryside, reading and working as a volunteer for Pancreatic Cancer UK.

*I sat at the cemetery and tried to find you.  
I could not.  
I could not see you. I could not hear you.  
Some flowers. Mostly grey.  
I could not feel you.  
I could not feel you!*

*Numb.*

*Inhale. Awkwardly.  
Chest tangled. Sore.  
Look around.  
Nothing.*

*Grief, you are lonely.*

*I walked.  
I walked and walked and walked.  
I think the hills of Scotland get steeper.  
And more beautiful.*

*That breeze is just wonderful.  
Just. Walk.  
Breathe.*

*A sunbeam kaleidoscope beams through the clouds.  
Oh hello, there you are!  
Thank you for joining me!  
Walk with me? I have so much to tell you!*

*Getting steep! Keep going!  
Feels great.  
I got a new job today. Did I tell you?*

*I see the summit! Nearly there....*

*We can do this.*

*We did it!!*

*Shall we sit here for a while?*

*Let's sit on top of the world. Just look at this place.*

*Hair blowing.*

*Green.*

*Exhale.*

*Ex. Hale.*

*Pause.*

*I feel the warmth of the sun on my cheeks.*

*Like your warm hand on my cheek when you would gently wake me from my sleep.*

*I open my flask and smile.*

*I can feel you.*