



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter December 2012

Secretary: Alan Murray, 2 Batchart Steadings, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ. Tel: 01224 865515 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

**Programme:**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2012**  
**Christmas Party**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 20:00**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012**  
**The Buck and Tap o'Noth**  
**Focal Pt Allan Brown (01358 722438)**  
**Community Centre Car Park 07:30**

### **The Buck and Tap o'Noth (OS Sheet 37)**

#### **Mike Taylor**

This is one of our winter regulars - we last visited them in 2003. The walk is really two walks which are very close together.

The Buck (721m) is a graceful pointed hill reached from the highest point on the Rhynie-Cabrach road first by going south for 1 km along the B9002 towards Lumsden then climbing 2km along a fence to the summit (310 m of ascent) - a very comfortable 2 hours round trip.

The Tap o'Noth (563m) is reached from a more easterly point on the Rhynie-Cabrach road. The summit is just over 1 km from the road with about 320m of climbing - probably about 1½ hours round trip. It is a prominent cone with a flat summit, the blunted top being caused by a circular wall of vitrified masonry where the firing of a wooden iron-age fort was so hot that it melted and fused the stone work - well worth a look.

This is an outing well within the capabilities of all club members but do remember it is winter so it could be very cold.

Contact Allan Brown (01358 722438) by Thursday 13 December if you intend to come on the walk.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> AGM  
Jan 20<sup>th</sup> Monagowan  
Mar 29-31<sup>st</sup> Tyndrum Bunkhouse Weekend

### **March Bunkhouse Weekend 29 – 31 March**

#### **Mike Taylor**

We have, in the past, arranged bunkhouse weekends in March so we are planning one for 2013. 8 beds have been booked at the By the Way Hostel in Tyndrum ([www.tyndrumbytheway.com](http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com)) for Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March. There is a large number of interesting hills in the area which are unfamiliar to many club members.

The cost is £16 per night. As we are not sure how many members will be interested, we are advertising this early, so that additional beds can be sought if there is more interest than expected.

If you want to go, please give £32, which is non returnable, to Mike Taylor by Monday 14 January (the date of the club AGM). Please make cheques payable to Ellon Hill Walking Club and if you can't catch up with Mike in person send them to Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ.

### **November 2012 – Monamenach**

#### **Margaret Watson**

10 of us set off from Ellon on a cold clear morning, taking the Kirriemuir/Glen Isla route to Glenshee. We planned to start the walk at Westerton of Runavey Farm but we didn't know if there was anywhere to park there. On our way down the farm track we met the farmer in his tractor and he gave us permission to park at the steading.

We set off on the walk along a landrover track, initially following part of the Ceteran Trail. A little bit of navigation was required to find the right track up towards Monamenach but we were soon on it and following it north-easterly. Near the end of the track another rough

landrover track (only marked on the newest maps) headed up to Carn Dearg and then up onto Black Hill. Some stacks of new fencing material were along this section of the route and we stopped near one of these while we had a snack.

From Black Hill we followed a line of old fenceposts marking the county boundary down to the Glack of Glengairney and then up the side of Monamenach. There was a dusting of snow and the weather was dry and clear, and we got good views of the surrounding hills. There was a cold wind so we didn't linger at the summit but descended following the old fence south-westerly towards Craigenloch Hill. We stopped for lunch in a more sheltered spot before climbing to the summit of Craigenloch Hill. From there we descended steeply down to the eastern edge of Loch Beanie where there was a narrow strip of 'beach'.

We then followed a squelchy track along the south of the loch back to the better landrover track to the farm.

It was an enjoyable walk with dry but cold weather and we saw several big herds of red deer in the distance.

On the way home we stopped for a very nice bar supper at the Finavon Hotel - it had a nice menu and quick service.

### **2013 Programme**

#### **Alan Murray**

Your committee have been slaving over hot maps and guide books for the past few weeks and have prepared a draft programme for your comments and suggestions. Please note that a number of the evening talks are merely ideas at the moment and agreement with the speakers over dates and, indeed, agreement to take part, has not been determined as yet - so if you see your name down - don't panic!

It's not easy coming up with fresh ideas for a Club that has been in existence over thirty years - so if you do have a favourite walk or a good idea, please let one of the committee know. Thanks

### **2013 – Notice of the 34<sup>th</sup> EHWC AGM**

#### **Alan Murray**

The 34th AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 14th January 2013. As ever, if anyone is interested in joining the committee nominations should be sent in to the secretary - please consider getting more involved in the running of the Club. Whilst all of the existing committee members have indicated that they would be willing to serve for another year, all would be happy to make way for new blood on the committee. If you are interested please contact any member of the committee for more details.

This year's AGM will follow the pattern of previous years, with the following agenda:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report of 2006 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Any Other Business

## Draft 2013 EHWC Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	14 20	AGM & Tuscany – Allan Brown Monagowan	20:00 08:30	Irene Jamieson
Feb	11 17	St Kilda – Alan Donaldson & Charlie Allan Morven from the west	20:00 08:00	
Mar	11 17 29/31	Falkland Islands – Linda Davidson Ailnack Gorge - The Castle - walk from Dorback Lodge & Bar Supper Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum	20:00 08:30	
Apr	8 14	Via Ferrata – Heather McCabe Lochnagar	20:00 07:30	
May	13 18/19 19	West Highland Way – Mike Taylor Skye Weekend Mount Keen	20:00 07:30	
Jun	10 16	Windy Hills (Fyvie) Evening Walk Jock's Road – through walk (taking in Tolmount and Tom Buidhe)	19:00 07:00	
Jul	8 14	Bennachie Evening Walk Schiehallion	19:00 07:00	
Aug	12 18	Railway Line Walk Carn an Righ	19:00 07:00	
Sep	9 15	Cycling in Southern India – Barbara Wyatt Cairngorm and Ben Macdui	20:00 07:00	
Oct	14 20 26/27	First Aid in the Mountains – Mike Taylor An Socach Loch Ness Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 07:30	
Nov	11 17	Wildlife Protection Cannes Glen & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	
Dec	9 15	Christmas Party Cruidhie Crom and Little Pap	20:00 08:00	

*Merry*  
  
*Christmas*  
