



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter March 2014

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**Programme:**  
**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Via Ferrata – Heather McCabe**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Cromdale Hills and Bar Supper**  
**Focal Pt Alan Murray (01224 865515)**  
**Community Centre Car Park 08:00**

### Cromdale Hills OS Sheet 36

#### Mike Taylor

The club visited these hills a few years ago on what is remembered as a very boggy walk. I suggest that this time we simply plan to visit the highest of the hills, Creagan a'Chaise from Cromdale village.

From the village we head out up Haughs Road before turning right along a track for Lethendry Castle. The hill track goes off to the left after about 200m but it is probably worth going straight on through a farmyard to have a look at the castle. This was the site of the Battle of Cromdale in 1690 at which a Jacobite army of 1500 men was defeated by Government troops. We return to the track junction then follow a track which goes around Claggersnich Wood to the Piper's Stone at GR103268. The legend is that a Jacobite piper called Hamish, who had been badly wounded after the battle, managed to reach this boulder and play a tune before collapsing to his death.

From this point we climb onto the ridge and head for the Coronation Cairn, built to commemorate the crowning of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria in 1902. There is a wonderful view of Grantown and Speyside from here. The walk continues along the ridge to its highest point, Creagan a Chaise. Here there is a trig point and the Jubilee Cairn, built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Apparently, there is a book in the cairn in which we can record our visit.

We return by retracing our steps but if the weather was good and we wanted to lengthen the walk we could venture along the ridge to the NE before heading back down to Cromdale.

The trip to the summit of Creagan a'Chaise and back is 16km with about 600m of ascent - between 5 and 6 hours of walking. We plan to have a bar supper the Haugh Hotel in Cromdale after the walk.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you want to join us, please let Alan Murray (01224 865515) know by Thursday 13 March. A minibus has been booked for the trip to and from Cromdale.

### Forthcoming Events

Mar 16<sup>th</sup> Cromdale Hills  
Apr 5/6<sup>th</sup> Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum  
Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Mount Keen

### Mount Battock Walk Report

#### Mike Taylor

Eight of us set off in the minibus on a bright morning with the promise of an island of good weather in the not so good weather we had been experiencing.

A few of us had been to Mount Battock before but, as usual, couldn't remember many details of the walk. As it was a good day, and likely to stay that way, we opted for the extended ridge circuit. We climbed on to Mount Ean to the west and then along a ridge north and east to Mount Battock following another ridge off to the south over the Hill of Saughs. It stayed clear and bright all day but was fairly windy at times and there was a significant amount of snow above about 400m. It was so deep in places that we were walking over the tops of fences and tripping over fence posts! A lot of the time it was quite soft which made

the going rather tough at times. There were some icy bits which gave a couple of us the opportunity to test out the spiky, but non-crampon, things we had for our boots. The views from the ridge were magnificent. All of the high hills around were wedding cake white and the cliffs of Lochnagar looked especially impressive.

The walk was a little further than originally planned but it was an excellent day out and we were back at the bus by just after three. We had a refreshment stop in Edzell and got back to Ellon in time for tea.

### Bunkhouse Weekend 4 – 6 April 2014

#### Mike Taylor

I believe one of the 8 beds that have been booked at the By the Way Hostel in Tyndrum ([www.tyndrumbytheway.com](http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com)) for Friday 4th and Saturday 5th April is still unfilled. The cost is £18 per night. If you want to go, please forward £36, which is non returnable, to Mike Taylor as soon as possible. Please make cheques payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club and if you can't catch up with Mike in person send them to Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ.

### Via Ferrata - Monday Meeting (10 Mar)

#### Heather McCabe

Our Monday evening meeting at the Station Hotel on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Mar is a talk on Via Ferrata from Heather McCabe.

Heather has undertaken a number of challenging alpine walks in recent years involving Via Ferrata (or iron ways) of varying difficulty. Her talk will cover the history, equipment, and techniques of Via Ferrata plus some stunning photographs of the routes.

Please come along and support the Club for what promises to be a fascinating evening.



North East Mountain Trust  
Winter Lectures

**Tears of the Dawn**

Jules Lines

Tuesday 18th February

Sportsman's Club

11 Queen's Road Aberdeen

Admission £4

Jules, one of the world's most accomplished free solo climbers, will talk about his book recounting his adventures and misadventures, worldwide, from early to present day



*Summit of Mount Battock*



*Lochnagar from Mount Battock*

*(Photos Alan Murray)*

## 2014 Programme

The committee has finalised the following programme of walks and talks for 2014. Focal points for all the walks are noted and start times confirmed.

Speakers for some of the Monday evening meetings is still work in progress so if you know of someone who has an interesting story to tell and would be willing to come and talk to the Club, please let us know.

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	13	AGM & Short talk	20:00	Irene Jamieson
	19	Monogowan	08:30	
Feb	10	The Matterhorn - Tony Richardson	20:00	
	16	Mount Battock	08:00	Mike Taylor
Mar	10	Via Ferrata - Heather McCabe	20:00	
	16	Cromdale Hills	08:00	Alan Murray
(Apr)	5/6	Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum		Mike Taylor
Apr	14	Kilimanjaro or Film Evening	20:00	
	20	Mount Keen	07:30	Susan Robertson
May	12	Kilimanjaro or Film Evening	20:00	
	17/18	Skye Weekend		Allan Brown
	18	Clachnaben	08:30	Irene Jamieson
Jun	9	Bennachie Evening Walk	19:00	
	15	Cairngorm & Ben Macdui	07:00	Ingrid Taylor
Jul	14	-	19:00	
	20	The Eag	07:00	Dan Carr
Aug	11	-	19:00	
	17	Lairig an Laoigh & Bynack Mor	07:00	Ingrid Taylor
Sep	8	Red Squirrel Protection	20:00	
	14	Carn Ban Mor and Sgor Gaoith	07:00	Dan Carr
Oct	13	TBD - Susan Robertson	20:00	
	19	Cairnwell Munros (x3)	07:30	Irene Jamieson
	25/26	Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend		Mike Taylor
Nov	10	??	20:00	
	16	Ben Tirran	07:30	Susan Robertson
Dec	8	Christmas Party	20:00	
	14	Conachcraig	08:00	Allan Brown