



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter May 2014

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Programme:
Monday 12th May 2014
Mountain Video – Final Thrilling Installment
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sat/Sun 17/18th May 2014
Skye Bunkhouse Weekend
Alternative Sunday Walk 18th May - Clachnaben
Focal Pt Irene Jamieson (01358 711242)
Community Centre Car Park 07:30

Clachnaben OS Sheet 45

Mike Taylor

Clachnaben is one of the most familiar hills in the North East of Scotland. I like the description of it in Drummond (Scottish Hill and Mountain Names):

‘Lying on the eastern shoulders of the Mounth, where the gentle swell of the hills lose their wave power before dying out on the plains by the North Sea, Clachnaben is a landmark because of the huge granite tor on top. In Gaelic it is clach na beinne, stone of the mountain, and its prominence is clear from Hamish Brown’s estimates of a 300 pace circumference and a 100 feet (30m) height’.

There are a number of recognised routes up the hill all taking about the same time - about a three hour round trip. From the Cairn o’Mount road at 649869 the route passes to the south of Mount Shade and its impressive dry ravine. There is another route from the North via the Burn of Greendams and another starting just west of Spittalburn at 645847.

This is a very straightforward walk which will be well within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in the walk please let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 15 May.

Forthcoming Events

May 18 th	Clachnaben
Jun 15 th	Cairngorm and Ben Macdui
Jul 20 th	The Eag
Aug 17 th	Lairig an Laoigh & Bynack Mor

Mount Keen Walk Report

Alan Murray

Numbers were a little down on expectations with only six of us making the trip down the A90 to Glen Esk for the ascent of Mount Keen. The weather was very favourable and, despite the references to the great deluge of Monagowan, it looked as if we would have a waterproofs-free day.

The notice board at the carpark had an advert for coffee and bacon rolls at the house just up the track but we were not to be diverted and headed along the path to the Queens Well. This was erected in 1861 to commemorate a visit by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert:

Queen Victoria and her consort Prince Albert purchased Balmoral Castle and delighted in travelling the mountain routes around. In 1861 they rode the 15 miles from Balmoral to Glen Mark and met with Lord Dalhousie beside an artesian well. Here they were

refreshed by the spring water before continuing to Invermark Lodge where they stayed overnight. To commemorate the visit, Lord Dalhousie erected a monument in the shape of a royal crown over the well. An inscription on the monument reads:

Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, and his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, visited this well and drank of its refreshing waters, on the 20th September, 1861, the year of Her Majesty's great sorrow.

(Prince Albert died in December 1861)

From the well we started the steady climb to the summit of Mount Keen. The path was much improved from the last time I climbed it; apparently this is part of the Eastern Cairngorms Access Project which has undertaken, amongst other things “Sensitive repairs to hill paths, including Lochnagar, Mount Keen, Jock’s Road and Loch Brandy”. Unfortunately, a number of the cross drains had already silted up and were in need of maintenance but otherwise the path were a huge improvement on the previous wide peaty scar up the hill.

We made good time and the summit was reached in time for a leisurely lunch on the lee side of the hill to escape the stiff breeze.

After time for enjoying the extensive views across to Lochnagar, Ben A’an and the Glenshee hills the return trip passed quickly arriving back at the cars in the mid afternoon. Then it was off the Edzell for a well earned refreshment before heading home.

Skye Weekend 16–18 May 2014

Mike Taylor

The annual pilgrimage to Scotland’s answer to the Alps is on May 16th -18th. All spaces in the bunkhouse are now taken but there are plenty of other options from camping at Sligachan to the Sligachan Hotel and local B&Bs. We will, no doubt, be meeting up in the Sligachan bar on the Friday evening to discuss options for the Saturday - hope to see you there.

Buying Cheaper OS Maps

Our cost conscious Treasurer, Allan Brown, has unearthed a cheaper way of buying OS maps for those of you still working on the paper versions. “You can buy OS maps on-line, with free postage, from dash4it.co.uk for about £2.50 cheaper than in the shops. As their name suggests they will deliver pretty quickly.”





Mount Keen (Photos Alan Murray)

