



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2014

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**Programme:**  
**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**Red Squirrel Protection – Steve Willis**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014**  
**Cairnwell Area Munros**  
**Focal Pt Irene Jamieson (01358 711242)**  
**Community Centre Car Park 07:30**

### Cairnwell Area (OS Sheet 43)

**Mike Taylor**

This is a very pleasant, and not too long, walk in the Cairnwell area which is a round of three Munros and starts and finishes at the ski car park.

Cairnwell (from Cairn Bhalg, cairn of the bags, referring to the pouchy peatbanks on the slopes) must be the most accessible Munro in the country. The summit cairn is straight up from the car park: 0.6 km with 270m of ascent - under an hour's walking. The top is a very good viewpoint looking over to the Cairngorms and down into Central Scotland. The walk from here to Carn a'Gheoidh (hill of the goose) is about 4km with 170 m of ascent. The route descends NNW along a broad ridge with snow fences then west for a short way to a col at 810m. From here it is a very pleasant walk up a gentle slope of crisp, mossy heath past Carn nan Sac to the summit at 975m. The route then backtracks to the Cairnwell-Aosda col and then up to the flat, stony summit of Carn Aosda (hill of age). This is just under 5 km with only 130m of ascent. The total time from the start to here is likely to be between 3 and 4 hours. The starting point is now just a little over 1km of descent away. The total distance is just over 10km with 570m of ascent - between 4 and 5 hours of walking.

This walk is very suitable for an October day and should be within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the Club. If you want to go on the walk, please let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 16 October.

### Forthcoming Events

Oct 25/26<sup>th</sup> Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend  
Nov 16<sup>th</sup> Ben Tirran  
Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Conachcraig

### Red Squirrel Protection

#### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October

The Monday evening meeting this month is a talk from the Red Squirrel Protection Officer for Grampian, Steve Willis. Steve will tell us of the work he is undertaking to support landholders and forest managers undertake grey squirrel control and to improve forests for red squirrels and, thereby, protect red squirrels in Grampian and across the Highlands from replacement by greys. The meeting is in the Station Hotel starting at 19:30. Please try to come along and support the Club.

### Sgor Gaoith Walk Report

**Dan Carr**

Six people started from the car park north of Auchlean on a bright patchy day, looking forward to a six hour walk up Sgor Gaoith via Carn Ban Mor. We quickly came to the farm and soon after blithely passed a branching path that would have lead us east up beside Allt Fhearnagan. After following the main path until it almost reconnected with the river we realised something was wrong and decided to cut left through the heather in the hopes of connecting with one of the paths on our maps. We pushed on through what was very tiring terrain (so glad it wasn't raining!) and after circling to the other side of the small forest and crossing back over the burn we could see the path we should have been on; a gentle white line slowly making its way up the side of the valley, as were the people on it, who had left the car park after us!



Once we were on the path spirits perked up and we made good time to Carn Ban Mor, passing a digger being used to repair the track. From here we could see Sgor Gaoith was clear of cloud and the wind was from the south east, perfect viewing conditions. It's a very smooth rise to the peak and we all gathered to enjoy the view of Loch Eanaich below and Braeriach across from us, with the Chalamain Gap visible off in the distance. The steep ledges below the peak where the previous excursion sheltered from the wind were pointed out and marveled at.



We decided to head west down the shoulders of Meall Buidhe and Meall Tionail to find the path back to the road, rather than retracing some of our ascent and seeing where we went wrong. At first it was easy going with a few boulder fields for light relief but as we descended we found ourselves striding through heather again. Still, going down through it was easier than coming up and we found the path quite easily. This led through some lovely woods back to the road and a 3km yomp back to the cars. On the way home we stopped for refreshments at Super Panther in Aviemore, which sounds like a Peter Stringfellow establishment but in fact does superb hot drinks and cakes. After our initial detour, we had definitely earned them!



North East Mountain Trust  
Winter Lectures

**"The Munro Society"**

Peter Willimott and David Batty

Wednesday 15th October 19:30

Sportsman's Club  
11 Queen's Road Aberdeen  
Admission £4