



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter December 2015

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

**Programme:**  
**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**Christmas Social**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**Ben Rinnes**  
**Focal Pt Susan Robertson: Text 07774755440**  
**Community Centre Car Park 08:00**

### Ben Rinnes (OS Sheet 28)

Mike Taylor

Ben Rinnes (Headland Hill), a very prominent landmark, commands glorious views over the Laich of Moray and across the Moray Firth to the hills of Ross, Sutherland and Caithness.

The quickest route up and down the hill starts at the small car park in the Beatschach on the B9009 (GR 285359). There is a good track over Round Hill and Roy's Hill to the summit which is a granite tor with the grand name of Scurran of Lochterlandoch. The trip there and back via this route is about 7.5 km with 550m of ascent - about 3 hours. The usual starting point for Ellon Hillwalking Club visits has, however, been the Ben Rinnes Distillery (GR 259397). The track from here goes to Baby's Moss which is incorrectly labelled Baby's Hill on the OS map. This is named after a young lady called Barbara who was buried here in the days when suicide victims could not be buried in consecrated ground. From the old peat workings, the route heads across open, and in places boggy, ground to the rocky tor called Scurran of Well on the map. From here it is easy to find a route across the summit plateau to Scurran of Lochterlandoch. The return can be made by reversing the first route for part of the way and then dropping down to a track which follows the base of the north slopes back to the distillery. These northern slopes were the scene of a terrible air crash in 1943. A Wellington Bomber based at Lossiemouth, crashed into the hill whilst on a navigational exercise and all five crew members died. A former member of the ground crew who went to the site on the hill shortly after the crash described it as "the most complete burn-out he had ever seen". There are still a few fragments of the plane to be found and the outline of the crash site is still clearly visible from the north side of the hill where the ground was scarred so badly that nothing will grow there even today.

This route is about 14 km with 750m of ascent - between 5 and 6 hours. The very helpful map (below) of these routes was found on the Moray Ways website. The walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but it is winter so bring plenty of food and warm clothes.

If you want to take part, please let Susan Robertson (text 07774755440) know by Thursday 17 December

### Forthcoming Events

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Scolty and Blackhall Forest

### 2016 Membership Card Photo Competition

Allan Brown

As you will all be aware the Club annual membership card carries a superb photo taken by one of our members from one of the club's walks. If you have an impressive, interesting or comical photo that you think is worthy of carrying on that tradition please send it to Allan Brown ([allan.brown@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:allan.brown@tiscali.co.uk)) in jpeg format. Allan will seek the services of an independent adjudicator to select the picture to be used for the 2016 membership card. There is, of course a prize; the winner will have the honour of their name printed on all of the cards acknowledging their skill and craft in being in the right place at the right time and having an eye for a worthy photograph.

**Entry criteria:** it is of an Ellon Hillwalking Club outing, stating the name of the photographer, the location and date the photo was taken. Photos from 2015 would be preferred but photos from other club outings can be considered.

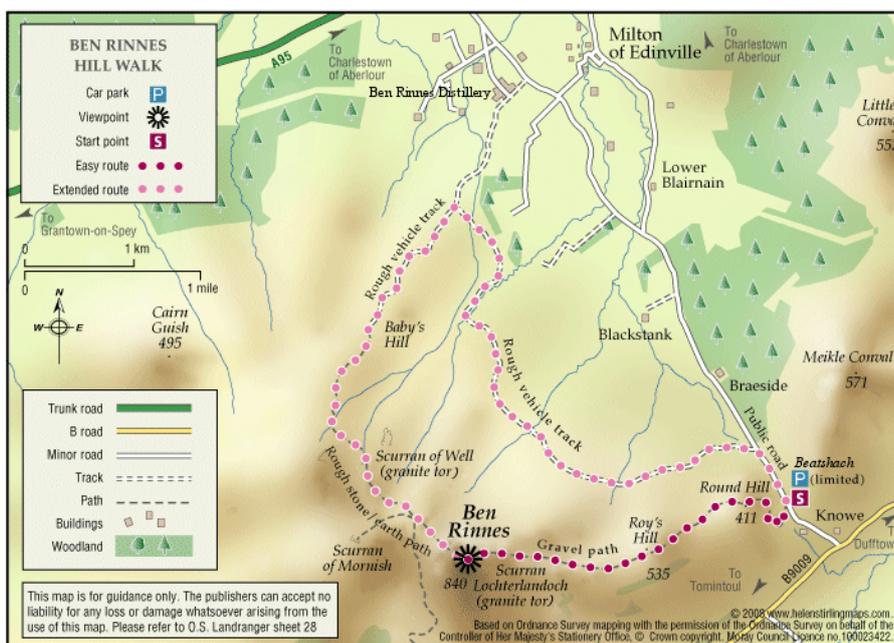
### November Walk Report

#### Pitfichie and Cairn William

Alan Murray

Conflicting, but generally quite bad, weather forecasts and a lower than expected turnout led us to cancel the minibus and rethink the long journey over to Glenmore Lodge for the planned walk up Meall a'Bhuachaille. After some frantic discussion we opted for a 16km walk around the Pitfichie Woods and up Cairn William.

We enjoyed a more leisurely start but were in clag and rain most of the day, however, it was an enjoyable walk through the lower wooded slopes before we struck up the mountain bike path to Cairn William - at 448m a "Marilyn" with good views across to Mither Tap and Millstone Hill - according to the description, but no such views for us today. The path brought us out on to the open hillside and linked a number of exposed granite outcrops as it made its way to the summit.



Whilst we were standing there, enjoying the view of the mist and drizzle, we could hear puffing and panting before a couple of brave (stupid?) mountain bikers hove into view. We exchanged pleasantries before they plunged off down a muddy streak and we headed down the well constructed path which zigzagged its way down the hill. After lunch, taken under dripping trees, we started the return journey to the cars along a well made land rover track. The rain even stopped for us. We reached the cars around 15:30 and had a discussion regarding where to retire for tea and scones; a suggestion of the garden centre at Inverurie was quickly vetoed as it had been the scene of a traumatic incident concerning the imposition of an outrageous parking fine for overstaying the allotted time in the car park by some 12 minutes whilst, all the time, being a paying customer in the restaurant and garden centre. However, no such objections were raised at a proposal to give Andersons furniture store and café our business and a pleasant cup of tea and fine piece were enjoyed by all. Whilst not the planned Cairngorm experience the fresh air and exercise was most enjoyable.

## Annual General Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016

The 37<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 11th January 2016. 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 happy to continue to serve on the committee, some of the existing committee members have indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to step down to make way for anyone else who is interested in helping to run the Club; new blood is always welcome 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 2015 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Any Other Business



North East Mountain Trust  
Winter Lectures

### **Elbrus – an adventure in the Russian Caucasus**

Roger Owen and Alistair Beeley  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 19:30  
Sportsman's Club  
11 Queen's Road Aberdeen  
Admission £4





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### Draft Programme 2016

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point	
Jan	11 17	AGM & "Three of the Best" Allan Brown Scolty and Blackhall Forest			
Feb	8 14	Brazil – Joyce Mackie Pressandyne			
Mar	14 20	Sierra Nejada – Alan Murray Firmouth and the Fungle			
Apr	2/3	Bunkhouse Weekend			
Apr	13 17	South Africa - Allan Brown Cairn Bannoch and Broad Cairn			
May	9 14/15 15	Gathimba Foundation Sarah Simpson? Knoydart bunkhouse weekend The Convals			
Jun	13 19	Navigation Exercise Angel's Peak and Devil's Point			
Jul	11 17	- Beinn a'Ghlo			
Aug	8 14	- Jock's Road			
Sep	10 16	Mountain Film?? Glas Maol etc			
Oct	10 16 29/30	Kilimanjaro – Gordon Spence Carn a'Mhaim Bunkhouse weekend			
Nov	14 20	?? Ingrid Taylor Coyles of Muick			
Dec	12 18	Christmas Party Bennachie			