



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter February 2015

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Programme:

Monday 9th February 2015

Mountain Rescue in Scotland –Billy Lindsay (Aberdeen MRT) and Overview of Scottish Avalanche Info Service
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sunday 15th February 2015

Glen Lee and the Falls of Unich and Damff
Focal Pt Allan Brown (Tel: 01358 722438)
Community Centre Car Park 08:00

Glen Lee and the Falls of Unich and Damff (OS Sheet 44)

Mike Taylor

Glen Lee, at the top of Glen Esk, is steep and craggy. The falls are tucked in behind Graig Maskeldie which is a fine, sharp peak when viewed from Loch Lee.

The walk starts at the car park at Invermark (GR 447804). From here a road is followed westwards, past the ruin of Invermark Castle to the old churchyard at the end of Loch Lee. The track then continues along the north side of the loch and at its end, at a junction at Glenlee Lodge, our route bears to the right. The track passes a weir in the Water of Lee, which is then crossed a little further on by a wooden bridge. The Falls of Unich (*Unaich - confusion, disturbance*), in a fine gorge, are soon reached. The path then climbs between Hunt Hill and Craig Maskeldie up to a boggy moor and the Falls of Damff (*Damh - stag*). The best view of these is gained by dropping onto a shelf next to them. Beyond the falls the path we want crosses a wooden bridge onto the south side of the burn and climbs to the summit of Cairn Lick. The path then zig zags down the shank of Inchgrundle (*Innis Grunndaile - meadow of good foundation*) to Inchgrundle Farm, on to Loch Lee and back to the Car Park.

The walk is about 16 km long with an ascent of 410m - 5-6 hours. It should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but remember it is winter, so come suitably equipped.

If you intend to go on the walk please let Allan Brown (01358 722438) know by Thursday 12 February.

Forthcoming Events

Mar 15th Morrone and Bar Supper
Mar 20/21st Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum
Apr 19th Lochnagar (Black Spout)

Ben Aigan - January 2015

Margaret Watson

Nine of us set off in the minibus from Ellon on a fine winter morning to climb Ben Aigan. As far as we can tell this was a new walk for the club, although we have seen the hill many times before as it is prominent on the skyline as you approach the village of Aberlour from the south-west.

We parked just off the A95 between Keith and Craigellachie, marked as the starting point for cycle trails on the OS map, although we saw no markers for these on the hill itself! Our route was mainly on forestry tracks which were covered with snow, but the snow wasn't deep so it didn't make the walking difficult. We were able to identify the wildlife on the hill by the tracks in the snow - fox, badger, deer and a flock of sheep too!

We followed the track south-west for about 1km and then it looped round northwards. A suggested route on the walkhighlands website had mentioned walking up through the firebreak, but we didn't think this would be pleasant walking so we kept to the forestry track which we followed round in a long loop up to the transmitter on top of Knock More hill. From here the track continued across through the forest towards Ben Aigan. We stopped for lunch while we were still in the shelter of the trees. At the tree line we turned right and the track looped round up onto the summit of Ben Aigan, which was marked by a

square trig point. There were good views over to Ben Rinnes, the village of Rothes and the Moray countryside. It was very windy and cold up on the summit so we didn't linger long, but descended back towards the tree line where we turned left to make a circular route. We descended steeply through the trees on a track heading northwestwards. We did stop a couple of times to check we weren't going too far downhill! After about 1.5km this track joined the Speyside Way which contours and undulates round the hill. We stopped at a viewpoint overlooking the River Spey, and since there were picnic benches there we enjoyed a snack. We then continued along the Speyside Way until we crossed the Allt Daley burn, and then we kept to the higher path which looped back around Knock More hill back to the minibus.

The weather had stayed dry all day except for one or two short snow flurries. This had been a very enjoyable winter walk climbing a hill we had not visited before. We stopped at Morgan McVeigh's on the way home for teas/ coffees and cakes.



No Pictures from this walk - so one from Google

Bunkhouse Weekends

Mike Taylor

Tyndrum 20 -22 March

We have 8 beds booked at the By the Way Bunkhouse in Tyndrum for the weekend of 20 -22 March

<http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com/>

The cost is £18 per bed, per night. Would anyone interested in taking part in this weekend please send £36 to Mike Taylor by Friday 27 February?

Skye 15 -17 May

We have 14 beds booked at the Sligachan Bunkhouse in Skye for the weekend of 15 - 17 May

<http://www.sligachan.co.uk/sligachan-bunkhouse.php>

The cost is also £18 per bed per night. We have to make full payment by mid March so places need to be reserved well in advance of the weekend... Would anyone interested in taking part in this weekend please send £36 to Mike Taylor by Friday 6 March?

Mike can be contacted by emailing mtandsbtaylor@btinternet.com. Cheques should be made payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club and sent to Mike at Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN, AB21 0UQ. Payments are not refundable unless the weekend is cancelled by the club or bunkhouse.

February Evening Talk

We have been very lucky to secure the services of two members of the Aberdeen Mountain Rescue Team to talk to the Club on Monday 9th Feb at 19:30. Billy Lindsay will speak on the Scottish Mountain Rescue Organisation in general and the Aberdeen MRT in particular and give a demonstration of the kit they use - both team and personal - including a chance to look over their team Landrover! Another member of the team will also speak on the Scottish Avalanche Service (SAIS) - an invaluable resource to climbers and hillwalkers in Scotland in winter.

2015 Programme

| Month | Date | Event | Time | Focal Point | |
|-------|-------------------|---|----------------|-------------|--|
| Jan | 12 18 | AGM & Kilimanjaro – Shona Ben Aigan | 20:00 08:30 | MT | |
| Feb | 9 15 | Aberdeen MRT Talk – Billy Lindsay Falls of Damph | 20:00 08:00 | AB | |
| Mar | 9 15 20/21 | Bhutan – Heather McCabe Morrone & Bar Supper Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum | 20:00 08:00 | DC MT | |
| Apr | 13 19 | ?? Tony Richardson Lochnagar (Black Spout) | 20:00 07:30 | IT | |
| May | 11 16/17 17 | Walking and Huts in Norway – Mike Taylor Skye Weekend Clachnaben | 20:00 08:30 | MT IJ | |
| Jun | 8 14 | Bennachie – Map and Compass exercise Beinn Bhreac and Beinn a Choarainn | 19:00 07:00 | AM | |
| Jul | 13 19 | - Derry Cairngorm | 19:00 07:00 | SR | |
| Aug | 10 16 | - Lairig an Lui | 19:00 07:00 | IJ | |
| Sep | 14 20 | New Zealand – Allan Brown Shelterstone | 20:00 07:00 | DC | |
| Oct | 12 18 24/25 | Montage? – Susan Robertson Cairnwell 3 Bunkhouse Weekend – Ossian? | 20:00 07:30 | IT MT | |
| Nov | 9 15 | Bulgaria – Allan Brown Meall a Buchaille & Bar Supper | 20:00 07:30 | AM | |
| Dec | 14 20 | Christmas Party Ben Rinnes | 20:00 08:00 | SR | |



North East Mountain Trust
Winter Lectures

“Experience as a Himalayan
Porter”

Rob Fraser

Tuesday 10th February 19:30

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

John Muir Trust North East Members Group Presents
Alan Rowan, Author
*The Munros by Moonlight – The Adventures of a
Midnight Mountaineer*
March 24th 2015
7.30 p.m.
Room C11 Taylor Building
University of Aberdeen
Tickets £3.00 pre-booking advisable
Contact Rohan Beyts 07887637058

