



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter January 2015

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

**Programme:**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**AGM & Kilimanjaro Talk – Shona Kidd**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**Ben Aigan**  
**Focal Pt Mike Taylor (Text 07710400154)**  
**Community Centre Car Park 08:30**

### **Ben Aigan (OS Sheet 28)**

#### **Mike Taylor**

Ben Aigan is very prominent on the skyline as you drive into Aberlour from the southwest. It is only 471m high but the summit gives extensive views over Moray, from the coastal plains to the Cairngorms.

Apart from the summit, the hill is covered with forestry plantations. There are also a number of signed mountain bike routes. Do you fancy the 'Fluffy Bunny' or 'The Hammer'?

The following route has been taken from the Walkhighlands Website. It starts at the car park for the cycle trails off the road between Craigellachie and Keith (GR 333493). The track is followed in a generally SW direction for just over a km when it swings to the right to continue its gentle climb up the hill with a view towards the transmitter mast on Knock More. After a further 700m when the track bends right again, we take a route which goes steeply up the fire break on the left. When we emerge onto a track again, we turn left to continue ascending. Just before coming out of the trees another bike trail goes off to the left. We continue ahead onto the open ground and when the path forks, take the right fork. After another 500m we turn left at the junction to begin the final pull up to the summit and the trig point. The distance from the car park is about 4km with 275m of ascent - about a 1½ hour walk. Depending on conditions and our mood on the day, we could return the same way or be adventurous and find a different route from the many tracks available.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the hillwalking club but winter rules apply - good footwear and plenty of warm clothes and food.

A minibus has been booked for this outing which will leave the Ellon Academy Car Park at 08.30. If you want to take part please text Mike Taylor (07710 400154) by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Ben Aigan
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Falls of Damph
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Morrone and Bar Supper
Mar 20/21 <sup>st</sup>	Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum
Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lochnagar (Black Spout)

### **Conachraig Walk Report**

#### **Margaret Watson**

5 of us set off in the minibus from Ellon, and we collected Alan M in Banchory on the way. The weather in Ellon had been reasonable, but as we approached Glenmuick it began to get windy and rainy. At the Spittal of Glenmuick car park it was raining heavily so we started the day with a coffee break in the minibus! However, blue sky was seen in the distance so we got our waterproofs on and bravely set off on our walk!

The rain soon eased off as we negotiated the icy slushy track across the glen and headed for the Lochnagar path. The river crossing was tricky, and the path beyond that was filled with ice, snow, slush and running water. This slowed us down a bit but fortunately the rain stayed off although it was very windy. We got to the cairn marking the left turn to Lochnagar, and where we were turning right to climb Conachraig. We stopped at the cairn for lunch, then headed up the steep path on the south-

western side of the hill. We gained the highest point which is marked on the OS map by a spot height of 865m. Here we took shelter from the wind behind the granite tor, and enjoyed lovely views over to Lochnagar and even as far as Bennachie on the horizon!

The 850m summit of Conachraig was about 1km away across the top of the hill, but as we made our way there the wind increased and blew sleety rain at us, making the walking quite difficult! We therefore decided to bypass that summit and instead dropped down over the eastern side of the hill where it was more sheltered. From there we descended over the heather and snow back towards the forest at the floor of the glen. After a quick stop in the forest it was just a short distance back on the land rover track to the car park. On the grassy area next to the visitor centre there were 8 red deer stags grazing and we enjoyed seeing them so close up. This had been an enjoyable day out and we felt a sense of achievement in managing to complete our walk despite the adverse weather! On the way home we stopped at a cafe in Ballater for teas/coffees and home bakes.



*No Pictures from this walk - so a view from the 2008 trip!*

### **2015 – Notice of the 36<sup>th</sup> EHWC AGM**

#### **Alan Murray**

The 36<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 12th January 2015. 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 be willing 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 2014 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Any Other Business

## 2015 Bunkhouse Weekend

The committee have investigated the possibility of booking the SYHA hostel at Loch Ossian for a Club weekend. As we will have to book the whole hostel we need to ensure that we have 20 people interested to cover costs. This will be about £60 per person for the 2 nights - a little pricier than our normal bunkhouse but it's a unique and magical place. Please let Mike Taylor know as soon as possible if you would like to join us so that we can make an informed decision as to whether we go ahead.

## 2015 Draft Programme

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



North East Mountain Trust  
Winter Lectures

**"Discovering the Watershed"**

Peter Wright

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 19:30

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