



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter March 2015

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Programme:
Monday 9th March 2015
Mont Blanc & Gran Paradiso; Tony Richardson
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sunday 15th March 2015
Morrone & Bar Supper
Focal Pt Dan Carr (Tel: 07772120558)
Community Centre Car Park 08:00

Morrone (OS Sheet 43)

Mike Taylor

Morrone (Mor Shron - big nose), rising to the SW of Braemar, is a rather featureless hill in itself but its summit provides a fine view of the high Cairngorms.

The usual ascent starts at the Car Park at the top of Chapel Brae in Braemar, near the pond. A private road is followed to an indicator near the croft of Tomintoul. A close inspection of this indicator, which was built by the Deeside Field Club, will reveal that not all the points on it are visible from its present position. This is because its intended site was on a knoll about 17 m higher. None of the guide books explain why it was sited in the wrong place! The path from here is a further 2km to the summit. The return is made by following a Land Rover track south then east to Glen Cluanie opposite Auchallater Farm and returning to Braemar by the minor road on the west side of the river. This gives a walk of 11km with just over 500m of ascent - between 5 and 6 hours of walking. A minibus has been arranged for this outing and we are planning a bar supper somewhere on the way home.

As with all our winter walks this walk is suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club bearing in mind the need for warm clothes etc in winter.

If you want to take part in this walk let Dan Carr (07772120558) know by Thursday 12 March.

Forthcoming Events

Mar 20/21st Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum

Apr 19th Lochnagar (Black Spout)

Falls of Damff - February 2015

Margaret Watson

We were a group of 11 for this walk - nine of us set off in the minibus from Ellon, collected Alan M in Aberdeen and met Kathleen at Invermark. The road to Invermark had taken us past the Hill of Rowan at Tarfside, which has a tall conical monument on it, and we wondered what that was. According to the walkhighlands website it is called the Maule Monument and was built in 1866 by Baron Panmure in memory of 7 members of his family.

From the car park at Invermark our walk took us past the ruin of Invermark Castle, then along to the old church and graveyard at the eastern end of Loch Lee. The loch was almost completely frozen over! We continued along the land rover track on the north side of the loch. The weather was reasonably good and the wind was mainly at our backs. Beyond the loch the track continued up the glen to a wooden footbridge across the Water of Lee and we stopped here for a coffee break.

We headed round the western end of the glen and were soon at the Falls of Unich. From here the path climbed steeply up the side of the falls and through the gorge. As we climbed higher there was more snow and ice on the path and also surrounding the Falls of Damff. A short distance beyond the Falls of Damff we crossed another footbridge and then continued up towards Cairn Lick. The fog had come down so we had to navigate our way across this high moorland area. The walking was a bit tricky because there were lots of snow patches and some of these were quite deep! We saw several white mountain hares and grouse. We got to the land rover track at the Shank of Inchgrundle and dropped down a bit to get shelter from the wind before stopping for lunch. We had a

nice view overlooking Loch Lee, and when we peeked over the crags we got a view of the higher loch Carloch which was frozen over too.

We descended down the Shank of Inchgrundle to the old house and steading at Inchgrundle. From there the track crossed the floor of the glen and crossed a bridge to rejoin the track on the north side of Loch Lee. The weather was now blustery and the mist was down over the hilltops but it stayed dry as we retraced our steps to the car park.

This had been an enjoyable winter walk. We stopped at the Panmure Arms Hotel in Edzell on the way home for teas/coffees and shortbread. Thank you to Mike and Ingrid for driving the minibus! Morgan McVeigh's on the way home for teas/ coffees and cakes.



The Falls of Damff - Picture Alan Murray

Loch Ossian Weekend 23 – 25 October 2015

Mike Taylor

The club has had a number of wonderful weekends at the Loch Ossian Hostel and is planning another for October 23rd - 25th this year.

This hostel is one of the most remote in Scotland and is in an incredibly picturesque situation to the north of Rannoch Moor (GR 370671 on OS sheet 41). You cannot get to it by car - access is only by rail and/or foot. It is a wooden building, which was once a boathouse, and is situated on a promontory at the head of the loch. It has 20 beds in two dormitories. Blankets and pillows are provided but we need to take our own sheet sleeping bags and pillow cases.

The environmentally friendly upgrading of the hostel a few years ago includes a renovated eco-friendly structure, renewable energy and ecologically sound water and waste disposal system. There is a modern, state-of-the-art dry toilet system, power is provided by a wind turbine and a multi fuel stove provides heat and hot water for both washing and a heating system.

The current rail timetable includes trains in late Friday evening and out at lunchtime or late afternoon on Sunday. This could, of course, be different by October.

There are a number of possible walks for the Saturday. For example:

- a gentle stroll around the loch (3 - 4 hours);
- one of the easiest Munros, Beinn na Lap, which is just behind the hostel and can be climbed in less than 2 hours;
- a round trip taking in a couple of Munros to the south east of the loch, Sgor Gaibhre and Carn Dearg, which would take about 6 - 7 hours.

In the evening we plan to provide a meal together and may make some use of the Club Song Sheets.

There are a few options for walks on Sunday:

- a high level walk over Beinn na Lap, Chno Dearg and Stob Coire Sgriodain to Fersit and Tulloch station - a good 6-7 hour walk involving quite a lot of climbing;
- the low level route we took once via the head of Loch Treig and then through the Lairig Leacach to Roy Bridge or Spean Bridge. This is a really fine walk, through some stupendous scenery, of about 24 km. It is downhill except for a climb up from Loch Treig of about 250m. It was timed at 6-7 hours but took longer because of some burns with too much water in them;
- the walk out to Rannoch we took last time we visited the hostel. This is about 16km with about 150m of ascent and takes 4-5 hours.

If possible, we would like to book the entire hostel for the weekend but we could only afford to do this if 20 people go. If fewer than 20 people are interested, we can book individual bunks but these have to be paid for in advance. The cost for the weekend will be £42 per person. If you want to be part of what should be a weekend with a difference please send £42 to Mike Taylor (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ) by the end of March. Cheques should be made payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club. Places will be filled on a first come, first served basis. At present, there are beds available in the hostel for that weekend. If I cannot make a booking at the end of March, cheques will be returned. If I am successful in making a booking, no refunds will be possible.

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	Mont Blanc & Gran Paradiso Tony Richardson Morrone & Bar Supper Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum	20:00 08:00	DC MT	
Apr	13 19	Bhutan – Heather McCabe 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

Mountain Birds and Habitats

Stuart Jennings

Tuesday 17th March 19:30

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