



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter November 2015

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Programme:

Monday 9th November 2015

**Walks in Bulgaria and Spain – Allan Brown
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

Sun 15th November 2015

Meall a'Bhuachaille

Focal Pt Alan Murray: Text 07825002385

Community Centre Car Park 07:30

Meall a'Bhuachaille (OS Sheet 36)

Mike Taylor

This Corbett ('Lump of the Herdsman') is the highest point of a ridge which overlooks the north side of Loch Morlich. It is a fine winter walk. It is not too long but could be extended into a longer walk if the conditions and mood of group allow.

The starting point is the parking place just past Glenmore Lodge. First we walk through the Ryvoan Pass in which lies the attractive Lochan Uaine, Little Green Loch. On reaching Ryvoan Bothy the route turns west up to the summit of Meall a'Bhuachaille. This is 5.5 km from the starting point with 480m of ascent - between 2 and 3 hours of walking. All the guide books say that this summit and ridge command glorious views of the northern corries of the Cairngorms.

The circuit can be completed by descending west to the col below Creagan Gorm and then following a path south to Reindeer House then along the road to Glenmore Lodge - another 4km making a total time for the walk of between 3 and 4 hours

If we are in the mood for a longer walk the ridge extends for just over 3km to the west to take in the summits of Creagan Gorm and Craiggowrie. We can then follow a path south to Badaguish picking up a forest road back to Reindeer House and Glenmore Lodge - about another 10 km. making a total of between 5 and 6 hours.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but bear in mind that it is winter so warm clothes and plenty of food are essential.

A minibus has been arranged for this outing. As is customary for the November walk we will stop somewhere on the way home for a bar supper. If you are interested in joining the walk please text Alan Murray (07825002385) by Thursday 12th.

Forthcoming Events

Dec 20th Ben Rinnes

The Cairnwell Three Walk Report

Mike Taylor

Eight of us set off, including Anne who had not walked with the club before. The forecast was promising and the day did turn out to be fine. We had 100% cloud cover but no rain, no wind, excellent visibility and a comfortable temperature for walking. This was in some contrast to last year when we set out to do this walk, but on stopping the bus in the ski car park found that we were being shaken around by the wind with a great hose pipe in the sky pouring water over us. We did something else.

It took us about an hour to walk straight up the slope to Cairnwell - Anne's first Munro. This is the Tiger ski run and we saw that the old single seat chairlift had gone and a new one was being installed. We also spotted a very strange looking digger with different sized legs. An internet search, when I got home, revealed that a new three person chair is being installed and should be ready to go by the beginning of December. The foundations have been laid and the pylons are being installed with the help of a helicopter. The digger is called a 'Spider'.

The walk over to Carn a'Gheoigh follows a good path over grassy heath which makes for very pleasant walking. The lochs we passed prompted a discussion on how the fish get into them. Another internet search revealed that we

covered all of the possibilities: stocked by estates; linked to larger water areas as glaciers receded; fish eggs transported by birds and animals; flooding at some time.

As we lunched on the summit we were joined by a party of young adults. We introduced ourselves and asked if they were from a walking club. They weren't. They described themselves as a random group brought together by someone suggesting a walk on Facebook and friends and friends of friends coming along - no committee meetings, no programme!

The walk over to Carn Aosda and back to the car park is pleasant enough, but goes through a number of ski tows and snow fences which are not very attractive when there is no snow around. The third internet search prompted by the walk revealed that the diggers we saw working on the hillside on the other side of the valley are 'reprofiling' 13km of erosion gullies as part of the Cairngorms Peatlands project.

Afternoon tea at the Kinord finished off a very pleasant day out.



Photo Gordon Spence

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.broon@tiscali.co.uk) in jpeg format. Allan will seek the services of an independent adjudicator to select the picture to be used for the 2015 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 2014 would be preferred but photos from other club outings can be considered.

Ossian Youth Hostel Report 23-25 Oct

Mike Taylor

Standing on the platform at Corrou Station, in the middle of Rannoch Moor, watching the train head off down the valley to Loch Treig is always a special moment. Sixteen of us shared that wonderful feeling of remoteness. We then headed off down the track for the mile walk to Loch Ossian Youth Hostel, nestling in a clump of trees at the edge of the loch, with our rucksacks and an assortment of other bags. The numerous bags containing our food for the two communal evening meals had been shared out amongst the group before we boarded the train at Rannoch Station after our coach trip together from Ellon.

Five of the group peeled off at the path junction close to the hostel to climb Beinn na Lap. It was a damp afternoon, the hill was shrouded in mist and, even though it's a short walk, they were likely to be in darkness before finishing. But, it was a Munro to be bagged, so off they set and managed to get back to the hostel just before darkness fell.

The rest of us settled into the hostel. It now has hot and cold running water and electric lights, but still has a seriously rustic feel to it and lovely dry lavvies.

The forecast for Saturday was not promising. The day dawned dry but with low cloud swirling around the hills. Nine set off to do the two other Ossian Munros (Sgor Gaibhre and Carn Dearg), three headed for a nearby Corbett (Leum Uilleann), and four for the walk around Loch Ossian. It turned out to be one of those days in which the weather works its way through all of its options. We had sunshine, mist, rain, wind and snow. My overriding memory of the day, however, is of the changing patterns of clouds and colour in the sky and the colourful autumn shades of the moor and mountains. Apparently, this is turning out to be one of the most colourful autumns for some time and we were in the right place to see it in all its glory. In the late afternoon two of our group took the train to Fort William and back to replenish our liquid supplies.

That evening, we enjoyed another meal together but didn't manage to consume the rather large amount of cheese, which had found its way to the hostel. As on Friday evening, after the meal we had a little storytelling and singing, but didn't succeed in re-creating the ceilidh which had taken place on previous visits of the club to this hostel. Nevertheless, we spent a very pleasant evening together.

Plans to walk out to Rannoch Station had been abandoned in the light of the poor forecast. We rose on Sunday to a fairly pleasant morning, but by the time we walked up to the station things had changed and we trudged silently through the heaviest rain of the whole weekend. We had morning coffee in the café at Corrou and then boarded the train to leave the very pleasant bubble we had been in for a couple of days. We were pleased to see the coach was where we had left it and set off for lunch in Pitlochry and the drive back to Ellon.

A fine weekend away!



North East Mountain Trust
Winter Lectures

"A winter journey in the Alps- the Cote d'Azur to Chamonix on ski"

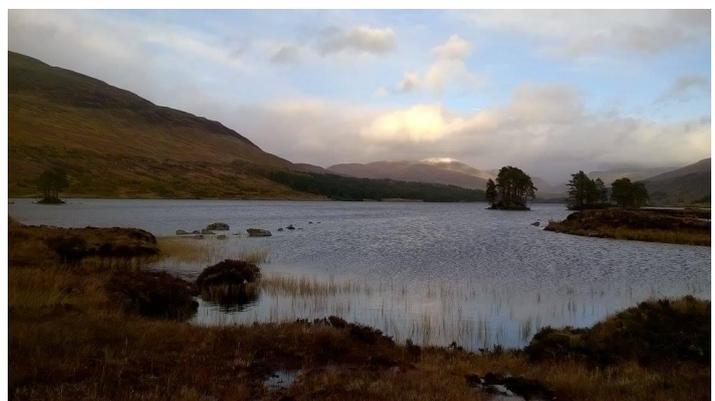
Steve Kentish

Wednesday 18th November 19:30

Sportsman's Club

11 Queen's Road Aberdeen

Admission £4



Loch Ossian YH Weekend

Photos: Ingrid Taylor, Gordon Spence, Tony Richardson