



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter July 2016

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**Programme:**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
**No Monday Evening Meeting**

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016**  
**Angel's Peak and Devil's Point**  
**Focal Pt Gordon Spence: 07896803032**  
**Riverside Car Park 07:00**

### Devil's Point and Angel's Peak OS Sheet 43

#### Mike Taylor

The Devil's Point is a prominent landmark from the Lairig Ghru path. Its name derives from Bod an Deamhain - demon's penis.

Drummond in Scottish Hill and Mountain Names describes it as a sharp peak of scaly black slabs and goes on... 'In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it was sometimes known as Poten Duon, a corruption of the Gaelic possibly with the intention of providing some modesty through opacity! Early writers ducked the problem of translating the offending word into cold print, referring to it as 'the devil's ---, or simply as 'a literal translation'. The 'problem' of its name was solved by the Victorian clerics and professors, the early mountaineers, whose demure English translation of 'bod' into 'point' made hillwalking safe for decent people in the area, draping a veil of modesty across the name!

The Angel's Peak is really a subsidiary top of Cairn Toul. Its correct name is Sgor an Lochain Uaine (peak of the green lochan) but it was given this name by the Victorians as a counterpoint to the Devil's Point on the other side of the mountain.

The Linn of Dee is the starting point for this walk from where the summit of the Devil's Point is 15.5 km with 700m of climbing. Continuing to Cairn Toul and Sgor an Lochain Uaine would add another 4km and 530m of ascent. On the return there is no need to re-ascend Cairn Toul or the Devil's Point so the distance is - only! - 18km. This total distance of 37.5km with 1230m of ascent is likely to take 12-13 hours which makes it a seriously long day suitable only for very fit members of the club. It may be that, on the day, the group decides not to take in all of these peaks but it would still be a long day.

If you intend to go on this walk please get in touch with Gordon Spence (07896803032) by Thurs 14 July.

### Forthcoming Events

Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Jock's Road  
Sep 18<sup>th</sup> Glas Maol  
Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Carn a'Mhaim  
Oct 29/30<sup>th</sup> Bunkhouse Weekend

### Beinn Iutharn Mhor Walk Report - June 2016

#### Margaret Watson

New member Andy, George, Irene, Malcolm and I set off from Inverey in fine weather - sunny with a slight breeze - although we could see the rain clouds sitting on the mountains as we headed up the land rover track in Glen Ey. We were soon overtaken by a mountain biker and he was the only other person we saw all day! The second half of the glen had a very green floor and is a habitat for ground nesting birds. The lapwings and oystercatchers were not pleased about us invading their peaceful glen!

After about 8km we arrived at the ruins of Altanour Lodge which is surrounded by a new-looking deer fence. We continued to follow the track beyond the lodge but soon realised that we were following the wrong burn, and a short detour was needed to return to the side of the Allt Beinn Iutharn. There was only a very rough path here so we kept to the side of the burn as we headed up the glen. The burn brought us to the north-eastern shoulder of Beinn Iutharn Mhor. We could see no path up the shoulder, so it was a steep climb clambering through the heather! Further up it was grassier, and we enjoyed a last view

back along Glen Ey before we ascended into the rain cloud that hadn't shifted off the mountain. Waterproofs were put on and we soon arrived at a cairn marking the north-easternmost point of the high plateau. The summit was another 1.5km to the southwest. The visibility was poor so we kept each other in sight and used Malcolm's GPS to guide us across the plateau.

We arrived at the summit cairn which provided some shelter from the wind and rain while we had our lunch. From there we took a compass bearing to avoid the scree slopes towards the bealach between Beinn Iutharn Mhor and the second top, Mam nan Carn. We set off on the bearing into the wind and rain and were soon at the bealach where we met the upper part of the Allt Beinn Iutharn. We quickly decided not to continue up to the other 2 tops but instead descended down the side of the burn. This was tricky as there was no path - it was soggy underfoot and we had to cross the burn several times to avoid steep or eroded parts of the bank! On our right a large herd of red deer ran to higher ground on seeing us, and on our left a smaller group including a doe and her fawn did the same. A mountain hare was also spotted.

Further down the glen the ground levelled out a bit and much further on we picked up a rough track which crossed a small bridge and brought us back to the main track at Altanour Lodge. In the rain, and with tired legs, the walk back down Glen Ey seemed very long! At about 7pm we got back to the car park, where the midgies were biting, so we quickly threw all our wet gear in the cars and headed for home!

Despite the poor weather this had been a good day out in the hills, visiting a more remote Munro and giving us some challenges of pathless terrain and navigation!



*Summit of Beinn Iutharn Mhor  
Photo: Irene Jamieson*

### Jock's Road - August Walk

The Club will be using a minibus for the planned Jock's Road through walk in August. As this is likely to be a popular outing it would be helpful to get an idea of numbers and to reserve spaces on the bus. Please let Dan Carr know if you intend coming by texting him on 07772120558 - thanks.

