



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter June 2016

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### Programme:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Navigation Practice & Forvie Sands Walk  
Sands of Forvie Carpark Newburgh 19:30**

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Beinn Iutharn Mhor / Bheag**

**Focal Pt Irene Jamieson: 01358 711242**

**Riverside Car Park 07:00**

### **Beinn Iutharn Mhor and Bheag OS Sheet 43 Mike Taylor**

Beinn Iutharn Mhor (big sharp-edged hill) rises boldly from Upper Glen Ey where its bulging shoulders dominate the glen. It is pronounced *yooarn voar* : the first letter of the second word is I not L which is often what is sounded.

The route starts at Inverey and initially goes up the east side of the Ey Burn, crossing to the west after a km or so then up past The Colonel's Bed and on to Altanour Lodge. From here it continues up the Allt Beinn Iutharn then strikes SW up the main shoulder of Beinn Iutharn Mhor to the flattish summit. The return by the same route gives a walk of 26 km with about 700m of ascent - an 8/9 hour walk.

If Beinn Iutharn Bheag is to be included in the walk, then go SE to Mam nan Carn, NE onto Beinn Iutharn Bheag and then on to join the Allt Beinn Iutharn. This adds about 3km and 200m of ascent to the walk - a little over an hour of walking.

This is a very pleasant walk through very typical Eastern Cairngorm scenery. Whichever route is chosen, this will be a longish day but suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are planning to go, please phone Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) by Thursday 16 June.

### **Forthcoming Events**

Jul 17<sup>th</sup> Angel's Peak and Devil's Point

Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Jock's Road

Sep 16<sup>th</sup> Glas Maol

### **Knoydart Bunkhouse, Inverie**

#### **Sheena and Michael Taylor**

After a smooth crossing from Mallaig, when we'd retrieved our rucksacks from the heap hefted on to the pier by the crew of the *Western Isles*, our walk to the Knoydart Foundation's Community Bunkhouse at the eastern end of the bay could scarcely have been more idyllic. The sea, lying calm to the right reflected blue sky; sharp green of larch and new growth on conifers bordered the roadside with primroses in full bloom; Scottish bluebells and opening ferns were uncurling in the warm evening air. Tony thought that even if the weather turned, it was worth coming just for that walk. We thought of those who were prevented by ailments from being with us.

We found the bunkhouse to be clean and well-equipped with three dorms, a drying room and a spacious lounge. One four-ring cooker would have been difficult, if everyone in the almost fully occupied bunkhouse tried to prepare a full evening meal, but nowadays there is a snack van next to the bunkhouse and a café on the shore side of the road as well as The Old Forge under new management. With no shop in the village everything has to be carried in for self-catering for the whole visit, however.

On Saturday in sunshine with a cooling breeze keeping midgies at bay, Ingrid and Gordon made a circuit of Luinne Bheinn and Meall Buidhe in almost exactly their target time of ten hours; Alan D, Kenny, Malcolm, Patricia and Tony climbed Ladhar Bheinn, while Gus opted to walk the northern shore of the bay. Sheena and Michael took the undulating road to visit the hamlet at Doune at a leisurely pace - it's the pace that suits Sheena these days. A handful of houses there overlooking the bay are accessible only by sea and a rough track. The lunch at Galley on the Hill of home-made soup, rolls, oatcakes and salad, the

greenery from the poly tunnels behind the house, was excellent. Other groups saw deer on the hill. In our case a small herd of hinds and young stags watched our ascent to the road, where we were met by Ian Robertson for a pre-arranged lift back to Inverie. A little motorised help at the end of the day is always welcome!

After a meal in the bunkhouse, Alan, Gus and Kenny repaired to the village hall to hear the concert of traditional music with local players. Their three faces appeared, beaming, at the window to entice us after our late meal at The Old Forge to the ceilidh to follow. Each had a disco pass stamped on the hand - an indelible ladybird, as we saw the next morning. Offers of 'sooks' from a platypus with some yellowish fluid remaining, did not appeal, especially when accompanied by the information the container was a 'leg bag'. Back in the lounge we were entertained with many a tall story and a rendition of The Barnyards of Delgatty, while we enjoyed various libations and the excellent cup-cakes, which have become a feature of these outings. Thanks for those, Susan.



*The Rough Bounds of Knoydart  
Photo: Ingrid Taylor*

On Sunday Michael took Ingrid to Newtonmore to pick up her car for the first day of her training with the SAS\* in Elgin on Monday; Patricia took a picturesque walk up the valley toward the dam; Sheena helped Ian and his daughter with the removal of copious amounts of debris from the village hall, which was entirely spick and span and well-aired by the time she came back in the afternoon from a jaunt toward the Falls of Folach; Gordon made light of a 'windershins' circuit of Ladhar Bheinn being back at the bunkhouse in under eight hours, which included a half hour of rehydration in The Old Forge; Alan, Gus, Malcolm and Tony sampled the catering at Doune returning via a deserted village of derelict black houses and a memorial on the coast. In the evening all gathered for a final meal in The Old Forge.

The return to Mallaig past the protective statue of the Lady of the Isles, was in bright weather, but colder than we'd enjoyed on a dry and warm weekend, which was judged a very worthwhile outing for the club. Everyone appreciated the visit to Knoydart, which will not be the last one to that enchanting area for several people. As well as the general attraction of the peninsula, there are Munros waiting to be conquered and plenty in the way of smaller hills and coastal walks.

[\*Scottish Ambulance Service - not the other SAS]



*All Photos: Ingrid Taylor*

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### **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.

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### **The Convals Walk Report**

#### **Irene Jamieson**

Dan, Margaret and I were all keen to do the alternative walk up the Convals so coming from different directions all met in the square at Dufftown. We left the cars there to avoid any parking problems and set off around 9.30. A large sign told us we were walking part of the Glenrinnes Way. A cuckoo called from the trees as we walked through a field of sheep before heading on to the hill and taking the path first to Little Conval.

The forecast was for dullish weather but it was mainly very clear and we enjoyed extensive views most of the day. Unfortunately, the wind blew rain our way on both hills as we neared the summits but we waited until it blew over on Meikle Conval for a photo of Ben Rinnes. It did not last long and cleared as we descended. We commented on the change of temperature as we returned through the field - two of us climbing the gates and one vaulting, (clearly he had not walked far enough!) - and returned to the road. We were surprised to see no-one else on the hill all morning. Were we early or are they spoilt for choice in an area surrounded by walks?

We took the lower, single track road back to Dufftown past the distillery and church and found it more enjoyable than the main road. Very sheltered from wind and traffic the vegetation was green and lush and the cherry trees were in full bloom.

After a wee search we were eventually directed to the only open coffee shop and finished our short but very enjoyable outing with a welcome coffee and fine piece.

