



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter February 2017

Secretary: Irene Jamieson, Mains of Leask Slains Ellon AB41 8LA email: irenemjamieson@hotmail.com

Programme:

Monday 13th February 2017

Amalfi Coast - Alan Murray

Extraordinary General Meeting

Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sun 19th February 2017

Morven

Focal Pt Irene Jamieson: 07817643429

Riverside Car Park 08:00

Morven (OS Sheet 37) Mike Taylor: Over the years we have visited Morven a number of times – usually in winter. It has been agreed that we will take the direct route from the east this time. The name is derived from Mor Bheinn, gaelic for Big Mountain. It doesn't reach Munro height but is a large, prominent hill which dominates the views around Aboyne. It features in a Byron poem: When I rov'd a young Highlander o'er the dark heath, And climb'd thy steep summit, oh Morven of snow! To gaze on the torrent that thunder'd beneath, Or the mist of the tempest that gathered below; It was one of the local hills conquered by Queen Victoria. She climbed it in 1859 and wrote: The view from it is more magnificent than can be described; so large and yet so near everything seemed, and such seas of mountains with blue lights, and the colour so wonderfully beautiful. So clearly well worth a visit! The route starts at GR 410044, the fork in the minor road from the A97 about 1km south of Logie Coldstone to Groddie. We take the left fork and head towards Balhennie, an abandoned farmhouse. From here we go through a couple of gates to get onto the open hillside. After the second gate, we bear right to follow a grassy path which goes west up steep slopes. These ease at 600m before steepening up again as we go the left of two rocky outcrops, Little Cairn and Mid Cairn, and on to the summit with its massive cairn. The easiest way back is to retrace our steps. The round trip is about 8km with 660m of ascent, which should take a little over 3 hours. Given reasonable conditions, this walk is well within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club. It is winter though so lots of warm clothes, good footwear and plenty food are essential. If you are interested in taking part in this walk, please let Irene Jamieson (07817 643429) know by Thursday 16 Feb.

Hill of Fare Ingrid Taylor

14 of us met at Raemoir House Hotel and, undeterred by the ice rink of a car park, set off into the woods. We slipped and slithered our way up the path and, after a wee pause for the necessary morning elevenses, came out onto the open hillside. By a mountain hut we split the group with the majority opting to stand on the

highest point of the Hill of Fare and accepting the challenge of trying to find the 'hard to find boulder' marking the top. We wound our way up the path and with a bit of deductive reasoning and Gordon's sharp eye, the 'hard to find boulder' was spotted; summit conquered! We then intrepidly set off into the cloud on a bearing (bit of navigation practice) to re-join the path, with mixed success at dodging the cleverly hidden holes amongst the heather. Once back on the path we looped round and descended back into the woods in what had become a very pleasant afternoon. The weather forecast had described our day perfectly. Whilst walking down through the woods a few of us became aware of a voice we hadn't heard for a while and looked round to discover that Alan and Gill had crept up, ninja-like, to re-join the group after their extra little circuit playing leap frog with some fell runners. Once back safely at the cars dry, which is always a bonus at this time of year, we headed to the Raemoir Garden Centre for a well-earned drink and a bite to eat. All in all, a very pleasant day out which blew away the cobwebs of the Christmas festivities nicely.



Photo – John Biggins

Extraordinary General Meeting

We look forward to seeing a good turnout on Monday 13th Feb. As well as the regular talk an EGM will be held to amend the constitution of the Club to allow more flexibility in the number of ordinary committee members.

Forthcoming Events

March 13th Talk Craigdon Mountain Sports
March 19th Cromdale Hills+Bar supper
March 25/26 Bunkhouse weekend. Tyndrum
June – Ben Nevis.

Minibuses have been booked for Feb. March and April walks.

Bunkhouse Weekends

Three bunkhouse weekends have been arranged for 2017

Tyndrum By the Way 24 and 25 March

Details of the accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com/>

The cost for the two nights will be £36.

If you want to take part in this weekend please send £44 to me (Mike Taylor, Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN. AB21 0UQ) by Friday 17 February. Beds will be confirmed on that date so there will be no refunds if you cancel after then.

Sligachan Self Catering Skye 12/ 13 May

Details of the accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.sligachanselfcatering.com/>

The cost for two nights will be £44

If you would like to take part in this weekend, you can register your interest by emailing me at lochaneilein@gmail.com

Beds have to be confirmed towards the end of March so payment will be required by 23 March. A reminder will be given in the March newsletter. Beds will be confirmed on that date so there will be no refunds if you cancel after then.

Sail Mhor Croft Hostel Dundonnell 27 and 28 October 2017

Details of the accommodation can be found at:

<http://www.sailmhor.co.uk/>

We have booked the hostel for sole use and the cost per person for the two nights has been set at £40.

If you would like to take part in this weekend, you can register your interest by emailing me at lochaneilein@gmail.com

We have to pay for the hostel by the end of September so payment will be required by 22 September. A reminder will be given in the September newsletter. Beds will be confirmed on that date so there will be no refunds if you cancel after then.

North East Mountain Lectures

Elbrus: an Adventure in the Russian Caucasus Roger Owen and Alastair Beeley

Veteran local mountaineers Roger Owen and Alastair Beeley relate their adventures in the Northern Caucasus of Russia, including an ascent of 5642m high Mount Elbrus, the highest mountain of Europe. The unspoiled beauty of the high Caucasus valleys and the nature of the local Balkaryan people unfolds through their story, along with the eccentricities of their Russian and Ukrainian guides, as they trek through this border region with Georgia.

**Wednesday 15th February 2017
Sportsman's Club
11 Queen's Road, Aberdeen
AB15 4YL**

TIME 7-30pm

ADMISSION (£4; members and concessions £2.00)

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

www.nemt.org.uk



Photo – John Biggins

- *The new secretary is feeling her way. If you know of any member who has had no communication so far, please let me know!*



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2017 Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal point
Jan	9 15	AGM & Munro Bagging Hill of Fayre	19.30 08.30	IT
Feb	13 19	Amalfi Coast Walks – Alan Murray Morven	19.30 08.00	IJ
March	13 19 25/26	Local Gear Shop Talk Cromdale Hills + bar supper Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum	19.30 08.00	DC MT
April	10 16	DVD Muriel Gray Mount Keen from Glen Esk	19.30 07.30	DC
May	8 13/15 15	Ben Nevis – Tony Richardson Skye weekend Clachnaben	19.30 8.30	MT IJ
June	12 17/18 18	Goval Woods Walk Ben Nevis weekend Mayar and Dreish	19.00 7.30	AM AB
July	10 16	- Cairn Toul	07.00	DC
August	14 20	Creag Meagaidh	07.00	TR
Sept.	11 17	John Muir Trust or NEMT? Through walk – Little Glas Maol to Carn o' Claise	19.30 0.700	RP
Oct.	9 15 28/29	Fire Service? An Socach Bunkhouse Sail Mhor Dundonnell	19.30 07.00	AM MT
Nov.	13 19	Mountains of Mourne – Mike Taylor Coryhabbie hill + bar supper	19.30 08.00	GS
Dec.	11 17	Christmas Party Cairn William	19.30 08.30	IT