



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter January 2017

Secretary: Alan Murray, 2 Batchart Steadings, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ. Tel: 01224 865515 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

### Programme:

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Annual General Meeting & Munro Bagging Video  
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Hill of Fare**

**Focal Pt Ingrid Taylor: 07870 469653**

**Community Centre Car Park 08:00**

### Hill of Fare (OS Sheet 38)

**Mike Taylor**

According to the archives, the last time the club visited this hill was in February 1990.

The SMC Cairngorm guide suggests that Fare comes from Faire which it translates as 'horizon ridge' but is translated by Dwelly, the standard gaelic dictionary, as 'watch hill'. I suppose that both of these are appropriate for its position to the north of the town of Banchory. It is a flat topped hill, almost a miniature hill range, which has some fine open views.

Walkhighlands suggests a walk starting near the Raemoir House hotel - GR 687992 on the A920. This is just over 18km with about 400m of ascent. At the usual club walking speed this would take 5-6 hours. The paths at the start follow a fairly tortuous route through the woods behind the Raemoir House Hotel out onto the open hillside. The walk on the hillside could then follow a circular route including the summits of Craigrath, Hill of Fare and Blackyduds before returning to the woods by going round to the east of Brown Hill and Myriehill. The summit at 471m is, apparently, marked only by a tricky to find boulder with a few stones placed on top in deep heather about 100m from the track. That's just the sort of challenge we like!

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but it is winter so bring plenty of food and warm clothes.

If you want to take part, let Ingrid Taylor (07870 469653) know by Thursday 12 January.

### Forthcoming Events

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Hill of Fayre  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> Morven  
Mar 19<sup>th</sup> Cromdale Hills  
Mar 25/26<sup>th</sup> Bunkhouse Weekend

### Spring Bunkhouse Weekends

**Mike Taylor**

Two bunkhouse weekends have been booked up for the early part of 2016.

**The By The Way Bunkhouse at Tyndrum**  
<http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com/>

12 beds have been booked for the nights of 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March at a cost of £20 per night. The club has visited this excellent bunkhouse a number of times over the last few years. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know as soon as possible. Full payment (non-returnable) of £40 will be required by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Mike Taylor

Contact details: [lochaneilein@gmail.com](mailto:lochaneilein@gmail.com) or 07710 400154

Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN. AB21 0UQ  
Cheques should be made payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club.

### December Walk Report - Bennachie

**Allan Brown**

Rowantree car park was the mustering point for the eleven eager walkers and one very energetic dog. One group planned to conquer some of the highest peaks of Bennachie while the others took a less strenuous stroll round the eastern side of Mither Tap. The mist had more or less cleared from the valleys and the skies were turning to a sunny blue. Both groups decided to head out together along the old toll road westwards for five minutes before striking back up the hill on a gentle gradient. This had the advantage of gently warming the muscles and also avoiding the really washed out bottom section of the Mither Tap path. The two groups separated at this point.

The high group continued on up the main Mither Tap path to take in Mither Tap itself, Oxen Craig (the highest peak of the Bennachie massif) and Craighshannoch. Their views all around were splendid.

The other group took the lesser used small paths and tracks investigation some of Bennachie's history. First off were the mill lade and Canny Well. From there it was down the track to try and find the remains of the Bede Houses. These are now about two stones high but were simple hovels where old folk stayed. Their role was to lead the laird and family to church. Further round they climbed the little path beside a wee burn up to the Fog House, a picnic shelter, and the 10 metre waterfall (the linn) behind. Further south they came to Esson's Croft and the old colony. The final places of interest were the estate's graveyard and the Maiden Castle. Then as a wee treat at the end they stopped by the small quarry beside the car park to look at the only source of Macaulayite clay in the world, discovered in the 1970s by Dr Jeff Wilson and named after the [Macaulay Institute](#) in [Aberdeen](#).

Both groups achieved what they set out to do on a wonderful December morning. To round off the outing most headed to Anderson's at Inverurie for a scone and a cup of tea or coffee.

### Annual General Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

The 38<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 9th January 2017. As ever, if anyone is interested in joining the committee nominations should be sent in to the secretary - please consider getting more involved in the running of the Club. Whilst happy to continue to serve on the committee, some of the existing committee members have indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to step down to make way for anyone else who is interested in helping to run the Club; new blood is always welcome on the committee. If you are interested please contact any member of the committee for more details.

This year's AGM will follow the pattern of previous years, with the following agenda:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report of 2016 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Discussion on Update of Club Member responsibilities on walks
- Any Other Business

## Ben Nevis Trip June 2017

The Club is planning a trip to climb the highest mountain in Scotland - Ben Nevis. It will take place in June 2017 over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June and the plan is to travel across on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>, climb the Ben on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and return home on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>.

A couple of routes to the summit are possible - the so-called "tourist route" and the Carn Mor Dearg Arete route if anyone fancies a bit of mild scrambling.

In order to put forward some options on transport and accommodation we would like to get an idea of the level of interest. If you are interested could you please get in touch with Alan Murray ([alnj.murray@gmail.com](mailto:alnj.murray@gmail.com) or 07825002385) by the end of February to allow us to work out options.



North East Mountain Trust  
Winter Lectures

### **The Life History and the Future of the Mountain Hare**

Glenn Iason and Scott Newey  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 19:30  
Sportsman's Club  
11 Queen's Road Aberdeen  
Admission £4





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### Draft Programme 2017

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point	
Jan	9 15	AGM & Munro Bagging Without A Beard Hill of Fayre	19:30 08:30	IT	
Feb	13 19	Amalfi Coast Walks – Alan Murray Morven	19:30 08:00		
Mar	13 19	Resuscitation techniques demonstration Cromdale Hills	19:30 08:00		
Apr	25/26	Bunkhouse Weekend			
Apr	10 16	Local Gear Shop Talk Mount Keen from Glen Esk	19:30 07:30		
May	8 13/14 15	? Skye weekend Clachnaben	19:30 08:00		
Jun	12 17/18 18	Goval Woods Walk Ben Nevis – weekend Mayar and Dreish	19:00 07:00		
Jul	10 16	- Cairn Toul	19:00 07:00		
Aug	14 20	- Creag Meagaidh	19:00 07:00		
Sep	11 17	John Muir Trust or NEMT? Through Walk – Little Glas Maol to Carn o'Claise	19:30 07:00		
Oct	9 15 28/29	? An Socach Bunkhouse weekend – Sail Mhor Dundonnell	19:30 07:00		
Nov	13 19	Mountains of Mourne – Mike Taylor Corryhabbie hill	19:30 08:00		
Dec	11 17	Christmas Party Cairn William	19:30 08:30		