



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter March 2017

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

Programme:

Monday 13th March 2017

Muriel Gray DVD

Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sun 19th March 2017

Cromdale Hills and Bar Supper

Focal Pt - Dan Carr 07772120558

Riverside Car Park 08:00

Cromdale Hills (OS Sheet 36) Mike Taylor

The club visited these hills in March 2014 but didn't reach the highest point because of some rather strong winds. From the village we head out up Haughs Road before turning right along a track for Lethendry Castle. The hill track goes off to the left after about 200m but it is probably worth going straight on through a farmyard to have a look at the castle. This was the site of the Battle of Cromdale in 1690 at which a Jacobite army of 1500 men was defeated by Government troops. We return to the track junction then follow a track which goes around Claggersnich Wood to the Piper's Stone at GR103268. The legend is that a Jacobite piper called Hamish, who had been badly wounded after the battle, managed to reach this boulder and play a tune before collapsing to his death. From this point we climb onto the ridge and head for the Coronation Cairn, built to commemorate the crowning of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandria in 1902. There is a wonderful view of Grantown and Speyside from here. The walk continues along the ridge to its highest point, Creagan a Chaise. Here there is a trig point and the Jubilee Cairn, built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. I understand that there is a book in the cairn in which we can record our visit. Kenny has brought to my attention that there is an air crash site nearby <http://www.aircrashesites-scotland.co.uk/whitley-cromdale-hills.htm>, which may be worth trying to find. We return by retracing our steps but if the weather is good and we want to lengthen the walk we could venture along the ridge to the NE before heading back down to Cromdale. The trip to the summit of Creagan a'Chaise and back is 16km with about 600m of ascent – between 5 and 6 hours of walking. We plan to have a bar supper somewhere nearby after the walk. This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you want to join us, please let Dan Carr (07772120558) know by Thursday 16 March. A minibus has been booked for the trip.

Forthcoming Events

April 10 – Craigdon Mountain Sports?

April 16 - Mount Keen from Glen Esk

May 8 - Ben Nevis - Tony Richardson

May 13/14 – Skye Weekend



Photo: Richard Paton

Morven Irene Jamieson

Eleven walkers left Ellon on the minibus, George and Patricia chose to travel by car and we met Alan at the layby at Groddie. It was a lovely morning and promised to be a clear dry day. We crossed the field by the ruin and followed the 'straight up' path and it was not long before the steepness and the sun necessitated the removal of some outer layers. Allowing faster walkers to overtake, our group leisurely wound its way up the hill. Many stops were made to have a breather, admire the views or just to chat! As forecasted the wind increased as we climbed and it grew a lot colder. Worried it might be very windy on the summit we detoured slightly to shelter among some boulders and have our lunch. Returning to the path we soon reached the top and although chilly, it was pleasant enough to enjoy and take photographs of the panoramic views of Aberdeenshire and beyond. There was still snow on the higher tops but it was becoming patchy having melted considerably during the week. The hill was extremely busy and the top was becoming crowded so we descended out of the wind, choosing the slightly longer route down. This path was wet in places but conditions were amazing for February, the air still mild as we arrived back to the bus. Refreshments at The Kinnord and a fine bletcher finished a lovely day out with a great turnout of Ellon hillwalkers.



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Bunkhouse Weekend Details The club's annual visit to Skye is usually one of the best attended of the year. We have experienced the full variety of Skye weather over the years – it isn't always misty on Skye! - and covered most of the island walking and climbing. Dormitory beds have been booked at Sligachan Self Catering for Friday 12 and Saturday 13 May. Details of the accommodation can be found at: <http://www.sligachanselfcatering.com/> The cost for two nights will be £44, which includes bed linen. If you want to reserve a bed at the bunkhouse for the weekend, please send a cheque for £44 (payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club) to Mike Taylor (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, AB21 0UQ), by Thursday 23 March. Beds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on receipt of the £44, which is non-refundable. There is a full range of walking and climbing activities on Skye: the Cuillin for those with a good head for heights; the Quiraing if you want to see something very unusual; Macleod's Tables for a straightforward hill walk; a trip to Raasay with a walk up Dun Caan for those who fancy a bit of small island hopping; and much, much more. Decisions about what to do are usually made in on the Friday evening where those with a good knowledge of the island will be happy to offer advice.

Map Reading and Navigation

A few members of the club have expressed a desire to improve their map reading and navigational skills. A few of us with experience and qualifications in this area would be willing to organise theory and practical sessions to suit the skill level and availability of those interested. If you think you might like to be part of such a group, please get in touch with our Hill Secretary, Mike Taylor (lochaneilein@gmail.com or 01651 862234).



Photo: George Slesser

NORTH EAST MOUNTAIN TRUST

2016-2017 Winter Lecture Series

Coast to Coast by Foot and Paddle

David Lintern

In 2015, outdoors photographer and writer David Lintern and friend David Hine crossed Scotland on a continuous journey, attempting to link the nine highest mountains in the UK (those over 4000') with as much paddling as possible. This illustrated lecture will describe the fun the two Davids had on their fifteen day adventure from Ardnamurchan to Spey Bay.

Wednesday 15th March 2017
Sportsman's Club

11 Queen's Road, Aberdeen AB15 4YL

TIME 7-30pm

ADMISSION (£4; members and concessions £2.00)

NON MEMBERS WELCOME

2017 Subscriptions Now Due If you haven't yet renewed your membership subscription please pay the treasurer, Allan Brown, the appropriate amount (£20 for an individual, £40 for a family and £1 for juniors) at the March Monday meeting or send him a cheque, made payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club, at 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW as soon as convenient. Many thanks.



Photo: John Biggins