



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter February 2018

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

Programme: Monday 12th February 2018 Iceland Trek - Alan Murray Station Hotel Ellon 19:30	Sunday 18th February 2018 Brown Cow Hill Focal Pt. Irene Jamieson- 07817643429 Riverside Car Park - 08.00
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February Walk **Brown Cow Hill OS Sheets 36 and 37** **Mike Taylor**

There is a calf on Brown Cow Hill. According to Drummond (Drummond, 1991), there is a late lingering crescent of snow, known as the White Calf, on the hill. When this melts off in mid summer it leaves a crescent of light coloured grasses stencilled into the surrounding heather. Heather needs a snow free growing season of six months so the lingering snow prevents the growth of the darker heather at the expense of the lighter grasses.

It is not a particularly interesting hill in itself but it is ideal for a winter outing and can provide some nice views over Glen Bulg to Ben Avon.

The starting point is near Corgarff Castle at GR 259087. From here a track goes SW along the Cock Burn which is left at the col between Carn Oighreag (Cloudberry Cairn) and Brown Cow Hill. A line of grouse butts is then followed S towards the summit area. This is a broad ridge about 3 km long all at around 800m. According to the SMC Corbett guide (Johnstone et al, 1990), 'it is clad in a rich tundra of short heather, blueberry, crowberry and cloudberry interspersed with sphagnum and occasionally mossy puddles. It provides easy walking in dry conditions....' There are three 'summits' on the ridge and the middle one, at 829m is the highest. Given reasonable conditions the walk will continue W along the ridge then NW over Meikle and Little Geal Charn. The ridge then curves NE past the Well of Don (presumably the source of the Don) to Cairn Culchavie, from where we would descend to Inchmore and the road back to Corgarff. The full horseshoe is 19 km with 560m of ascent – about 6 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 want to join us, please let Irene Jamieson (07817 643429) know by Thursday 15 February.

Drummond, 1991:

Scottish Hill and Mountain Names

Peter Drummond SMC

Johnstone et al, 1990

The Corbetts

S Johnstone, H Brown and D Bennett SMC

Forthcoming Events

March – Mayar and Dreish +Bar supper

March – Tyndrum Bunkhouse weekend

April - Lochnagar

Geallaig Walk report **Mike Taylor**

We expected drizzle or mist at the start of the walk, which would clear over the morning, to be followed by rising wind in the afternoon. The thirteen folk who arrived at Braenloin were pleased to find it fairly bright, but chilly. We arrived in five cars which upset the environmentalist in me: we must get this minibus problem sorted out!

We set off up the Land Rover track which initially made for easy walking. As we got higher, snow had gathered in the track which made the going a little more difficult as at times it was fairly deep. We also encountered some mist just below the summit which encouraged us to use our map and compass.

We reached the top in about an hour and a half to find a trig point surrounded by a circular drystone dyke .

Some of us had difficulty in negotiating the wall in the wind but eventually we all found refuge in this cosy spot for a snack and chat. This included agreement that the wind was a good force 8, about 45 mph. It also included the decision to take the direct route back rather than walking along the ridge into the teeth of a gale, which seemed to be rising. Initially, on leaving the refuge, most of us had some difficulty walking until we had descended a little. The wind was now a strong gale.



In the winter edition of *The Scottish Mountaineer*, the magazine of *Mountaineering Scotland*, there is an interesting article on winter walking by Heather Morning, their safety adviser, which includes the following:

Wind of 40 – 50 mph Walking will be arduous. You will need to brace/lean into the wind and energy output will be significantly increased. Risk of being blown off balance/sideways
Wind of 50 – 60 mph Walking will be very challenging and exhausting.Move between gusts and brace yourself when a gust arrives. Get off the hill by the easiest and safest route.....

We had made the correct decision as the wind was now over 50mph.

The entire walk only took us about three hours but had been quite pleasant most of the time and 'interesting' around the summit.

The usual stop at the Loch Kinord Hotel provided a pleasant finish to a reasonable winter day out.



Bunkhouse Weekends Mike Taylor

Three bunkhouse weekends have been arranged for 2018

Tyndrum By the Way 23 and 24 March

Details of the accommodation can be found at: <http://www.tyndrumbytheway.com/>

The cost for the two nights will be £40.

If you want to take part in this weekend please send £40 to me (Mike Taylor, Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN. AB21 0UQ) by Friday 16 February.

Beds will be confirmed on that date so there will be no refunds if you cancel after then.



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Skye Basecamp Broadford Skye 18 and 19 May

Details of the accommodation can be found at: <http://www.skyebasecamp.co.uk/>

The cost for two nights will be £50

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.

Corran Bunkhouse Onich near Fort William 26 and 27 October

Details of the accommodation can be found at: <http://www.corranbunkhouse.co.uk/>

We have booked bunkhouse one for our use and the cost per person for the 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

We have to pay for the hostel by the end of September so payment will be required by 21 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.

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Wednesday 21st February 2018

Sportsman's Club

11 Queen's Road, Aberdeen

AB15 4YL

TIME 7-30pm

ADMISSION (£4; members and concessions £2.00)

NON MEMBERS WELCOME