



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter April 2019

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Programme: Monday 8th April 2019 Walking in Morocco – Lisa Kelly Station Hotel Ellon - 19.45	Sunday 14th April 2019 Broad Cairn and Cairn Bannoch Leave from Riverside Carpark 07:30 Focal Point – Richard Paton 07866 596613
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Cairn Bannoch and Broad Cairn. OS sheet 44. Mike Taylor.

To the west of the well-known, spectacular valley which contains Loch Muick, the valley floor rises to a smaller upper basin holding the Dubh Loch. Cairn Bannoch (from Carn Beannach – Peaked Hill), lies to the west of this and Broad Cairn (from Carn Braghaid – Hill of Upland) to the south.

Our walk will start at the Spittal of Glenmuick car park and will take us first along the west side of Loch Muick passing Glas Allt Shiel, one of the royal residences. West of here, after leaving the loch, a good path climbs up to the Dubh Loch via the Stulan a waterfall in the stream that tumbles down from the hidden Loch Buidhe. A huge slabby wall of granite cliff rears above the Dubh Loch which keeps out much of the sun – hence the name. A path is followed which peters out at the end of the loch. The route continues upstream for a while until the north west end of Creag an Dubh Loch is passed when a route up to Cairn Bannoch can be found. From this point head SSE to Cairn of Gowal before heading due east to the summit of Broad Cairn. Descent is via the east ridge to Alan's Hut at 256808 then down to Loch Muick – there is a choice of tracks – and on to the Spittal of Glenmuick.

This is quite a long walk, 23km with about 700m of ascent, which is likely to take 8 – 9 hours. If those who turn up on the day fancy a shorter walk, Broad Cairn on its own would be a very pleasant walk.

If you're interested in joining this walk, please let Richard Paton (07866 596613) know by Thursday 11 April.



Dubh Loch

Forthcoming events

May 17-19 – Skye Weekend

May 19 – alternative walk - Tom's Cairn

June 16 – Ben Wyvis

July 14 – Newtonmore Area.

Rotary Local Club Night.

Gordon, Jim and John manned the EHWC table at the recent Rotary Local Club night in the Station Hotel, an evening organised to let the public know about clubs in the area. They handed out a few membership forms but as in previous years the majority of people there were also promoting an organisation or club. *Photo John Biggins*



March Walk. Mount Battock. Margaret Watson

John, his grandson Ethan, Lisa and I set off from Ellon and made good time to Glen Esk now that the AWPR road is fully open. We started our walk from Millden Lodge in fine bright weather.

We kept to the land rover track alongside the Burn of Turret which contours round Allrey Hill. We enjoyed the views looking back to the snow-covered hills of Glen Esk to the south and west. The wind increased and brought with it some sleety showers so waterproofs were put on. It did brighten up again as we ascended Wester Cairn and we stopped to admire one of the many well-constructed grouse butts which line the surrounding slopes - circular stone walls with brass numbers at the entrance!

We saw lots of grouse in the area.

Mount Battock was in cloud and it became very windy as we made our way up to the summit. The walls of the cairn did not provide much shelter from the wind and sleet!

John measured the wind speed at 45mph on his anemometer! We descended following a fence heading south-east to make a circular route. There were some big snowdrifts here, some higher than the fence!

We clambered over these, and the last one was short and steep so we 'sledged' down it! It became more sheltered here so we stopped for lunch. A group of 4 passed by doing a circular walk in the opposite direction and were the only other people we saw all day. We then crossed an area of peat hags before joining a land rover track on the Hill of Saughs which brought us over the Hill of Turret and back down to the car park.

The day was finished off with a quick stop for drinks at the Panmure Arms in Edzell. We had enjoyed a good day out in the hills on this winter walk.



all photos by John Biggins



**Skye weekend - Skye Basecamp
Broadford 17 - 19 May**

As usual, the club will be going to Skye in May.

Details of the accommodation can be found at:

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

The cost for two nights will be £50
If you want to reserve a bed at the bunkhouse for the weekend, please send a cheque for £50 (payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club) to Mike Taylor (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, AB21 0UQ), by Friday 26 April. If you would prefer to pay by bank transfer, please get in touch with Mike. Beds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on receipt of the £50, which is non-refundable.

