



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter December 2013

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

Programme:
Monday 9th December 2013
Christmas Social
Station Hotel Ellon 20:00

Sunday 15th December 2013
Lochnagar Foothills
Focal Pt Allan Brown (01358 722438)
Community Centre Car Park 08:00

Lochnagar Foothills (OS Sheet 44)

Mike Taylor

This walk is listed as Cuidhe Crom and Little Pap but your committee decided that this would be too long a walk for the time of year so it has been modified. It is in the Loch Muick area as planned but does not go so high or cover as much ground as the walk originally planned.

We will start on the usual tourist route up Lochnagar at the Spittal of Glen Muick. A private road goes 1.5 km NW to a burn, the Allt na Giubhsaich, beside a small shooting lodge. The path to Lochnagar starts at the bridge over the burn goes through a plantation then curves above the dry gorge of Clais Rathadan to a col at 678m. We turn west here onto the Lochnagar path for a couple of hundred metres then turn south onto a track which contours around the hill below Little Pap for about 3km before joining the track down to Loch Muick. We will then follow the track down past the waterfall to the Glas Allt Shiel, a lodge belonging to the Balmoral estate on the shore of Loch Muick. From there a walk along the north west side of the loch is the route back to the carpark. This is a very pleasant walk through some stunning scenery.

The walk is about 14km with 350m of ascent and should take between four and five hours. It 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 are interested in taking part, please let Allan Brown (01358 722438) know by Thursday 12 December.

Forthcoming Events

Dec 9th Christmas Social
Dec 15th Cruidhie Crom and Little Pap
Jan 13th AGM
Jan 19th Mona Gowan

Photos - Alan Murray



Canness Glen Walk Report

Margaret Watson

A full minibus load of 14 of us set off to Glen Isla on a cold but dry and fine morning. We drove south and stopped at the Finavon Hotel to organise our bar supper for that evening, and as we had plenty of time we had morning coffee there too!

The weather stayed fine on the drive to Glen Isla. We had a brief stop to allow a farmer and his dogs to move a herd of sheep along the narrow road. We parked at Auchavan at the end of the minor road, and set off on our walk along the landrover track which followed the River Isla northwards.

Further on there was a group of stalkers' ponies grazing in the glen and we enjoyed seeing them. The ponies were quite friendly, especially when carrot snacks were offered to them!

At Bessie's Cairn we stopped for lunch. The cairn offered stone seats on each side. There was a large herd of red deer on the high ground above us. From there we continued along the track past a ruined cottage, and went a little further on to get a view into Canness Glen. It was very scenic although there wasn't a lot of water in the waterfalls at the head of the glen. We didn't linger long as there was a cold wind there. We headed back along the same route to the car park, enjoying a bit of late afternoon sun although it remained cold.

This was a pleasant winter walk along a good track and we were lucky to have a day of fine weather. We stopped at the Finavon Hotel for our bar supper on the way home - it had nice food and quick service.

2014 Membership Card Photo Competition

Allan Brown

As you will all be aware the Club membership card now carries a superb photo taken by one of our members from one of the club walks. If you have an interesting or impressive photo that you think is worthy of carrying on that tradition please send it in to Allan Brown (allan.brown@tiscali.co.uk) in jpeg format. Allan will seek the services of an independent adjudicator to select the picture to be used for the 2014 membership card. There is, of course a prize involved; the winner will have the honour of their name printed on all of the cards acknowledging their skill and craft in being in the right place at the right time and having an eye for a beautiful photograph.

Entry criteria: it is of an Ellon Hillwalking Club outing stating the name of the contributor, the location and date the photo was taken.

2014 AGM & Committee

Some members of the existing committee have indicated that they will not be standing for election in 2014 and we are keen to get some new blood and fresh ideas into the Club committee; please consider volunteering for election - just submit your name to the secretary before the AGM (Jan 13th)

2014 Programme

The committee has drafted the following programme of walks and talks for 2014. However, there is still plenty of scope for new ideas so if anyone can suggest a different walk - or just one that they haven't done and would like to do, please get in touch with any committee member and we'll try to include it in the programme. Speakers for the Monday evening meetings is still work in progress so if you know of someone who has an interesting story to tell and would be willing to come and talk to the Club, please let us know.

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point	
Jan	13 19	AGM & Short talk Mona Gowan	19:30 08:30	II	
Feb	10 16	The Matterhorn – Tony Richardson Mount Battock	19:30 08:00		
Mar (Apr)	10 16 5/6	Via Ferrata - Heather McCabe Cromdale Hills Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum	19:30 08:00		
Apr	14 20	TBD Mount Keen	19:30 07:30		
May	12 17/18 18	TBD Skye Weekend Clachnaben	19:30 07:30		
Jun	9 15	Bennachie Evening Walk Cairngorm & Ben Macdui	19:00 07:00		
Jul	14 20	- The Eag	19:00 07:00		
Aug	11 17	- Lairig an Laoigh & Bynack Mor	19:00 07:00		
Sep	8 14	Red Squirrel Protection Carn Ban Mor and Sgor Gaoith	19:30 07:00		
Oct	13 19 25/26	TBD Cairnwell Munros (x3) Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend	19:30 07:30		
Nov	10 16	Mountain Film Evening Ben Tirran	19:30 07:30		
Dec	8 14	Christmas Party Conachraig	19:30 08:00		



North East Mountain Trust
Winter Lectures

**A Climbing Apprenticeship served
in the North West Highlands**

Murdoch Jamieson

Tuesday 17th December

Sportsman's Club
11 Queen's Road Aberdeen
Admission £4