



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter February 2012

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### Programme:

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012**  
**Mountain Safety Video Evening**  
**Station Hotel Ellon 20:00**

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012

**Brown Cow Hill and Bar Supper**  
**Focal Pt Mike Taylor (01651 862234)**  
**Community Centre Car Park 08:00**

### Brown Cow Hill (OS Sheet 36 & 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 midsummer 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. A minibus has been booked for this outing which will leave the community centre car park at 8.00 am. We are planning to have a bar supper somewhere after the walk – venue still to be decided.

If you want to join us, please let Mike Taylor (01651 862234) know by Thursday 16 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

### March Weekend

#### Mike Taylor

We have reserved eight beds at the Station Lodge, Tulloch, for the weekend of 16 -18 March. This is situated at Tulloch Station on the West Highland Line (GR 354802 on OS sheet 41).

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

It provides bunkhouse style hostel accommodation for up to 24 people, in four rooms which are furnished with double bunks and wardrobes. Bed linen is provided, with towels provided free of charge on request.

There are lots of interesting mountains to climb in the area!

If you would like to take part in this weekend please pay £32 to me (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN, AB21 0UQ) by Thursday 1 March, at the latest. This will not be refundable unless the trip is cancelled. I will confirm numbers with Station Lodge on that date.

### Ben Rinnes

#### Malcolm Leach

Eleven of us made the trip to Ben Rinnes. The weather forecast was very good and it did not disappoint. When we arrived at the start point just past Knowe, the temperature gauge in my car was showing -6°C. We set off following the track in bright sunshine with no wind and as we got higher the views got better. Trying to identify the various distilleries was great fun.

As we gained height the ground was snow covered but presented no difficulties. The summit was soon reached and we enjoyed a break taking in the excellent views.

As the day was so fine we decided to extend the return trip by continuing to some crags at Scurran of Well before dropping down to pick up a track that would take us to about ½ k from our start point.

The route we had chosen was across deep heather and the rough walking was not to everyone's taste but we reached the track without incident. The walk along the track would normally have been straightforward but it was covered in a lot of ice and you had to take care where you put your feet. At the end of the track we joined the road and were soon back at the cars. The temperature was now a balmy 0c and after a quick change of footwear we were soon on our way for some well earned refreshment at the Fife Arms in Dufftown. All in all an excellent day.



*Summit of Ben Rinnes; Picture Neil McLeod*

### Forthcoming Events

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Tulloch Bunkhouse Weekend

Apr 15<sup>th</sup> Ladder Hills

May 19/20<sup>th</sup> Skye Weekend

### 2012 Hillwalking Programme

The walks and talks programme for next year has now been firmed up and this is enclosed with this month's newsletter. There will be some changes to the Monday evening talks to accommodate speaker availability – changes will be notified when they are known.

## 2012 Subscriptions

### Alan Murray

Just a reminder of the request for this year's subscriptions: £15 for individual members; £30 for families and £1 for junior members. If you haven't already done so please re-new your membership promptly by sending a cheque for the relevant amount to the treasurer, Allan Brown, 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW. Many thanks.

## 2012 Walks and Talks Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	9 15	AGM & Jordan Slide Show (AB) Ben Rinnes	20:00 08:30	Malcolm Leach
Feb	13 19	Mountain Video Brown Cow Hill & Bar Meal	20:00 08:00	Mike Taylor
Mar	12 18	Swimming the Corrievreckan – Rohan Betts Tulloch Station bunkhouse weekend; Alternative Sunday walk: Convals (Duffton)	20:00 08:30	Mike Taylor Irene Jamieson
Apr	9 15	Antarctica – Jack Orr Ladder hills	20:00 07:30	Malcolm Leach
May	14 19/20 20	Outdoor Gear Update Skye Wend – Broadford Backpackers bunkhouse Glen Buchat	20:00 07:30	Gordon Spence Irene Jamieson
Jun	11 17	Leask Heritage Tour Mayar and Dreish via Corrie Fee	19:00 07:00	Allan Brown
Jul	9 15	Gight Woods Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic	19:00 07:00	Alan Murray
Aug	13 19	Collieston Coastal Walk Lairig Ghru	19:00 07:00	Gordon Spence
Sep	10 15/16	St Kilda ?? Camp at Coylumbridge and walk to Shelterstone – Sunday walkers to join on the day	20:00 07:00	Malcolm Leach
Oct	8 14 27/28	Lands End to John o'Groats Cycle Ride? Geal Charn (Nethybridge) Sail Mhor Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 07:30	Alan Murray Mike Taylor
Nov	12 18	Cowal Way Walk?? Monamenach & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	Irene Jamieson
Dec	10 16	Christmas Party The Buck and Tap o'Noth	20:00 08:00	Allan Brown