



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter January 2013

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

Programme:

Monday 14th January 2013
AGM; Tuscany – Allan Brown
Station Hotel Ellon 20:00

Sunday 20th January 2013

Mona Gowan
Focal Pt Allan Brown (01358 722438)
Community Centre Car Park 08:30

Mona Gowan (OS Sheet 37)

Mike Taylor

Mona Gowan is a hill quite close to us which was first visited by the club in 2006. It is a Graham. The 'Grahams' were invented as recently as 1992. In this year two lists were published of hills between 2,000 and 2,500 ft. One was compiled by Fiona Graham and the other, which referred to these hills as 'Lesser Corbetts', by Alan Dawson. These two folk then got together and produced a list of 222 hills which they agreed would be referred to as 'Grahams'. The list has now grown to 224. There seems to be some mystery surrounding Fiona Graham. Apparently, her real name was Helen Torbet and she was found murdered while on a hillwalking holiday in the Highlands only a year or two after her list was published!

There are a number of ways up Mona Gowan from the North. The shortest starts at Fleuchats (335090), which is only a mile or so from the Big Yin's pad. From here there is a track almost to the summit - 3.5 km with about 380m of ascent. This should be a couple of hours walk at the most. According to Andrew Dempster in his book, 'The Grahams', the summit has a huge well-built cairn which was constructed for the jubilee of Queen Victoria. From the summit one can apparently enjoy spacious views, with Morven particularly prominent. If time permits, before descending it might be worth taking a look at the rocky gorge called the Slacks of Glencarvie, which lies about a km to the east of the summit.

This should be just right for a winter day out; remember to wear warm clothes and bring plenty food.

If you intend to go on the walk let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 12 January.

Forthcoming Events

Feb 17th Morven
Mar 17th Ailnack Gorge and the Castle
Mar 29-31st Tyndrum Bunkhouse Weekend

March Bunkhouse Weekend 29 – 31 March

Mike Taylor

We have, in the past, arranged bunkhouse weekends in March so we are planning one for 2013. 8 beds have been booked at the By the Way Hostel in Tyndrum (www.tyndrumbytheway.com) for Friday 29th and Saturday 30th March. There is a large number of interesting hills in the area which are unfamiliar to many club members.

The cost is £16 per night. As we are not sure how many members will be interested, we are advertising this early, so that additional beds can be sought if there is more interest than expected.

If you want to go, please give £32, which is non returnable, to Mike Taylor by Monday 14 January (the date of the club AGM). Please make cheques payable to Ellon Hill Walking Club and if you can't catch up with Mike in person send them to Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ.

The Buck and Tap o'Noth

Alan Murray

There must have been a fair number of Club members who had either completed all their Christmas shopping or were

just scunnered with the whole thing as we had a very good turnout for the December walk.

The first objective was The Buck; I had wisely decided to miss this one out as I was using the outing to test out my recently healed Achilles tendon and didn't want to overdo things (it also meant a long lie!) However, the advance party made their way over a fairly boggy section and on up the hill; towards the top they encountered a tricky section of ice and snow with some lucky members trying out their new ice gripper boot attachments to great effect - I think there were others making a note to include these as a last minute present from Santa to self! Despite the slippery surface all made it back to the cars without incident and drove on to the Tap O'Noth car park.

Here the conditions again proved interesting! Two thirds of the car park was covered in sheet ice upon which even winter tyres struggled to make any impression. Despite this everyone parked adequately and made their way round the hill on a fine Landrover track and then up towards the fort at the top of the hill. Softer snow was encountered as we headed up but it wasn't enough to slow us down and we all reached the top for a bite of lunch and some good views over Donside.



We retraced our steps and were soon back at the cars with the thought of something warming in mind - so, breaking with tradition, we headed for a tea shop - the grand sounding Kellockbank Country Emporium - for tea and scones - and possibly some last minute shopping?

2013 – Notice of the 34th EHCW AGM

Alan Murray

The 34th AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 14th January 2013. As ever, if anyone is interested in joining the committee nominations should be sent in to the secretary - please consider getting more involved in the running of the Club. Whilst all of the existing committee members have indicated that they would be willing to serve for another year, all would be happy to make way for new blood on the committee. If you are interested please contact any member of the committee for more details.

This year's AGM will follow the pattern of previous years, with the following agenda:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Matters Arising
- Chairman's Report of 2006 Activities
- Treasurer's Report
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Election of Honorary Auditor
- Setting of Annual Subscription
- Any Other Business

Draft 2013 EHWC Programme

Month	Date	Event*	Time	Focal Point
Jan	14 20	AGM & Tuscany – Allan Brown Monagowan	20:00 08:30	U
Feb	11 17	Falkland Islands – Linda Davidson? Morven from the west	20:00 08:00	
Mar	11 17 29/31	St Kilda – Alan Donaldson & Charlie Allan? Ailnack Gorge - The Castle - walk from Dorback Lodge & Bar Supper Bytheway Bunkhouse Tyndrum	20:00 08:30	
Apr	8 14	Via Ferrata – Heather McCabe? Lochnagar	20:00 07:30	
May	13 18/19 19	West Highland Way – Mike Taylor Skye Weekend Mount Keen	20:00 07:30	
Jun	10 16	Windy Hills (Fyvie) Evening Walk Jock's Road – through walk (taking in Tolmount and Tom Buidhe)	19:00 07:00	
Jul	8 14	Bennachie Evening Walk Schiehallion	19:00 07:00	
Aug	12 18	Railway Line Walk Carn an Righ	19:00 07:00	
Sep	9 15	Cycling in Southern India – Barbara Wyatt Cairngorm and Ben Macdui	20:00 07:00	
Oct	14 20 26/27	First Aid in the Mountains – Mike Taylor An Socach Loch Ness Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 07:30	
Nov	11 17	Wildlife Protection Cannes Glen & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	
Dec	9 15	Christmas Party Cruidhie Crom and Little Pap	20:00 08:00	

*Please note that a number of the evening meeting events have not been agreed and are subject to change.