



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter January 2014

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Programme:
Monday 13th January 2014
AGM & "Six of the Best" – Allan Brown
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sunday 19th January 2014
Mona Gowan
Focal Pt Irene Jamieson (01358 711242)
Community Centre Car Park 08:30

Lochnagar Foothills (OS Sheet 44)

Mike Taylor

Mona Gowan is a hill quite close to us which was first visited by the club in 2006. It was on the programme for January 2013 but the walk was called off because of the weather so we're trying again! 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. We have a minibus booked so you won't need to do much driving.

If you intend to go on the walk let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 16 January.

Forthcoming Events

Feb 16 th	Mount Battock
Mar 16 th	Cromdale Hills
Apr 5/6 th	Bunkhouse Weekend Tyndrum
Apr 20 th	Mount Keen

Loch Muick Walk Report

Margaret Watson

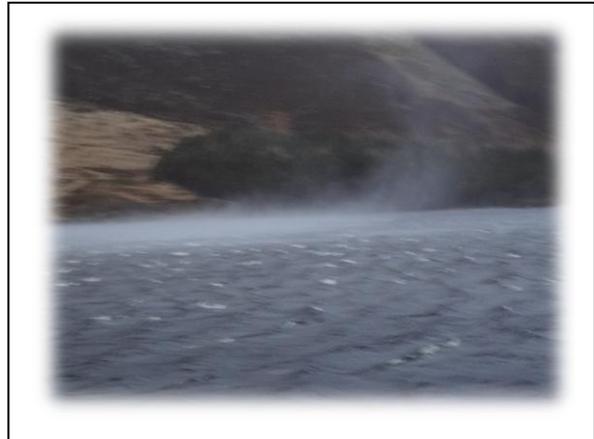
We were a small party of 5 who headed to Glen Muick. The weather had been reasonable in Ellon but the wind increased as we drove west. We parked at Spittal of Glenmuick and set off towards the Lochnagar path. However, the wind here was very strong and we struggled across the glen heads down into the gale! By the time we got to the start of the path at the forest we decided that going up onto the mountain would be foolhardy.

Instead we opted for a walk around Loch Muick. We set off towards the Glas-allt-Shiel and were walking into the wind all the way there, so the walking was quite challenging! Water from the surface of the loch was being blown up into the air in swirls like steam!

We took shelter in the bothy at the Glas-allt-Shiel while we had our lunch. It was a busy little place and the 3 other groups of people we met had all abandoned their plans to gain any summits due to the stormy weather.

As we walked round the top of the loch it was tricky crossing the bridges across the burns as we were nearly blown off into the water! Walking back along the south side of the loch was easier with the wind at our backs. We could see the top of the Glas Allt waterfall - the water was being blown upwards out of it! The rain started towards the end of our walk so we were glad to get back to the minibus.

We stopped at a busy café in Ballater for tea and scones on the way home. The weather had prevented us from doing our planned route but we had an interesting walk nonetheless.



A Turbulent Loch Muick - Photo Alan Murray

2014 – Notice of the 35th EHWC AGM

Alan Murray

The 35th AGM of the Ellon Hillwalking Club will be held on Monday 13th January 2014. 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. Some of the existing committee members have indicated that they will be stepping down this year and, whilst we have a couple of people who have put themselves forward, new blood is always welcome 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

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 raise it at the AGM. 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

Mountain Ski Touring

Chris Townsend

Wednesday 15th January

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