



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter July 2013

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Programme:

Monday 8th July 2013

Evening Walk – Bennachie

Ellon Community Centre Car Park 19:00

Sunday 14th July 2013

Schiehallion

Focal Pt Alan Murray (01224 865515)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Schiehallion (OS Sheet 51)

Mike Taylor

Schiehallion's central position makes it one of the most recognised mountains from distant summits around Scotland. From east and west it is seen as a steep conical peak and as a distinctive whale backed ridge from the north and south.

It is famous as the place where in 1774, the Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskeleyne, conducted experiments to measure the mass of the earth by observing the deflection of a pendulum by the mass of the mountain. Schiehallion was considered the ideal location thanks to its isolation and almost symmetrical shape.

Our walk starts at the Braes of Foss Car Park (£2 charge) where there is a memorial to the experiment. The car park is at GR 752558, 3km along a narrow road which leaves the B846 about 7km south of Tummel Bridge.

It used to be a rather boggy trek but the John Muir Trust bought this side of the mountain in 1999 and built a new path which goes up to the summit ridge. On the ridge, as the gradient eases, the going is a bit tougher over quartzite boulders following numerous cairns until the summit is reached. As would be expected the views from here are impressive, particularly to the west across Rannoch Moor to Glencoe.

The walk is a round trip of about 10km with 760m of ascent - between 4 and 5 hours of walking - and should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club.

If you are interested in taking part in this walk, please get in touch with Alan Murray (01224 865515) by Thursday 11 July.

Forthcoming Events

Aug 18th Jock's Road

Sep 15th Cairngorm and Ben Macdui

Oct 20th An Socach

Oct 26/27th Bunkhouse Weekend – Loch Ness

August Walk - Jock's Road (OS Sheets 43&44)

It looks like there is sufficient demand to organise a minibus for this excellent through walk. The committee has decided to subsidise this and charge a 'special' price of only £12. There are still a few places left but these will be allocated on a first come first served basis - so if you would like to take part it is important that you let Gordon Spence (01358 788998) know as soon as possible so that a place on the minibus can be reserved.

The Tolmount Track runs from Braedownie in Glen Doll to Auchallater in Glen Clunie and is one of the most rugged through walks in Scotland as it climbs to 910m and crosses a large tract of exposed high plateau with few landmarks. This right of way was the subject of an action in the Court of Session in 1886-87, and in the House of Lords in 1888, when it was proved that it had been for long the practice of drovers to take sheep from Braemar over the Tolmount to the market at Cullow, near Kirriemuir (Bartholomew et al, 1995).

The walk is 20 km long with an ascent of 20 km from the Glen Doll side and 570 km from Auchallater - probably about a 6 hour walk. The minibus will drop the party off in Glen Doll and be driven around to Auchallater to meet everyone at the finish of the walk.

From Glen Doll the walk starts at the car park near Braedownie (GR 284762) with a very pleasant woodland

walk alongside the White Water. Once out of the forest the track climbs steeply up to the plateau; this part is Jock's Road, said to be named after a John Winters (Watson, 1975). On the way up to the highest point on Crow Craigies a small shelter, Jock's Bothy, is passed. After Crow Craigies the track descends towards Glen Callater with fine views of Coire Kander to the West. The track goes along the East side of Loch Callater then down a Land Rover track to Auchallater.

References:

Bartholomew et al, 1995, Scottish Hill Tracks, Originally compiled by Moir in 1947, revised by Bartholomew, Bennet and Stone in 1995 Published by Scottish Rights of way Society

Watson, 1975: The Cairngorms, Adam Watson, SMC

Carn an Righ

Malcolm Leach

After a late call off 6 of us made the trip to Carn an Righ. The weather forecast was good with no rain and light winds. The weather when we left Ellon was sunny and remained so until we reached Deeside where it became cloudy. We arrived at the Dalmunzie hotel and paid our £2.50 parking fee, well worth the price to avoid the extra walk at the end of long day.

We started off following the road towards Glenlochsie Farm then turned right through a gate crossed the Allt Ghlinn Thaitneich burn and followed the track northwards. The weather was dry and although the sun had not made an appearance it was pleasant. We continued following the track crossing numerous burns, none of which presented a problem. As we got higher the path became quite steep and rocky in places until we reached Loch nan Eun.

We skirted round the west of the loch and picked up a path below Mam nan Cain which became quite boggy in places. Carn an Righ was still out of sight as we made our way along the boggy path. The path eventually became dryer and Carn an Righ came into view. The path up Carn an Righ was a bit of a slog but we reached the summit at 2.00pm, 4.30 hours from Dalmunzie. Our efforts were rewarded with excellent views of the cairngorms to the north and after a brief rest we started back following our outward route.

Despite the remoteness of the hill we had met a number of other walkers, some who had also visited Glas Tulaichean. We made good progress on our return only stopping briefly and arrived back at the cars at 17.45, a little over 8 hours. Everybody agreed that it had been a good day and after a quick drink at the Dalmunzie hotel we made our way home.

Bennachie Walk

This month's evening walk will be based around Bennachie. Thanks again to Allan Brown who will be putting together an interesting and informative walk. If you would like to join the walk please meet at the Community centre carpark at 19:00 on Monday 8th July where cars will be organised for the trip across to the start point. If anyone wishes to join at the start point I would suggest contacting Allan on 01358 722438 to make arrangements about time and place.