



# ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

## Newsletter June / July 2012

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<b>Programme:</b> <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b> <b>Leask Heritage Tour – George &amp; Irene Jamieson</b> <b>Mains of Leask 19:00</b>	<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b> <b>Mayar &amp; Dreish via Corrie Fee</b> <b>Focal Pt Allan Brown (01358 722438)</b> <b>Community Centre Car Park 07:00</b>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b> <b>Gight Woods</b> <b>Ellon Community Centre Carpark 19:00 or</b> <b>Gight Woods Top Carpark 19:30</b>	<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b> <b>Carn an t-Sagairt Mor – The Stuic</b> <b>Focal Point Alan Murray (01224 865515)</b> <b>Community Centre Car Park 07:00</b>

### Mayar and Dreish via Corrie Fee (OS Sheet 44) Mike Taylor

These two mountains are on the south side of Glen Doll which is at the head of Glen Clova, the deepest and straightest of the Angus glens. The name Dreish comes from the gaelic, dris, meaning bramble. The meaning of Mayar is less certain. According to Drummond (Drummond, 1991), it is sometimes translated as m'aighear (my darling) since its top is a gentle rise in a wide rolling plateau but he prefers magh ard, high plain, as more suitable to the landscape.

The walk starts at the Glen Doll car park where there is a ranger information post and toilets. It goes past Achern Farm, running alongside then crossing the White Water, following signs to Corrie Fee. After about 3km in the woods the track emerges into the bowl of the corrie with the waterfall at the back. This is a wonderful corrie through which the path finds its way around mounds of glacial debris to the headwall. The well-made path continues to climb steeply up the headwall before emerging onto the plateau and a gentle walk SSW to the summit of Mayar.

The route to Dreish starts by following fence posts eastwards across grassy tundra to the col between the two mountains. Take care to avoid the old fence wire which is lying around! From the col a 1.5 km climb leads to the summit of Dreish over a subsidiary top. From here, on a clear day all the summits of the Mounth from Mount Keen to Glas Maol can be identified and the lines of the old drove roads crossing to Braemar and Glen Muick can be seen.

The usual descent is to return to the col and follow the good path down the side of the Shank of Drumfollow. It is possible to descend to the NE via the Scorrie but this is very steep and a route through the wood at the bottom would have to be found. An interesting way off if people feel up to it!

This is a very pleasant walk of about 14km with approximately 900m of ascent which should take between five and six hours. The usual route should be well within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club

If you are interested in joining the walk please let Allan Brown (01358 722438) know by Thursday 14 June.

Drummond 1991: Scottish Hill and Mountain Names, Peter Drummond, SMC

### July Walk - The Stuic (OS Sheets 43 and 44)

#### Mike Taylor

The walk this month is up a peak a couple of km west of Lochnagar – the Stuic. According to the SMC Cairngorm guide 'the jutting nose of the Stuic provides an interesting summer scramble'. The Cicerone guide 'Walking in the Cairngorms' says that this scramble was used by Byron on an ascent of Lochnagar and, as he had a club foot, it must be reasonably easy. The scrambling route is described as follows:

"The ascent is an easy scramble on piled granite blocks. There is a small path to show the way: the easiest line is a few feet left of the crest. The ridge steepens to a final tower. The last step of this is steep and exposed, but can be avoided by walking 5m to the left and then slanting back up right on a ledge."

This walk starts at the Invercauld Bridge on the A93 (GR185910). There is parking at Keiloch or at the roadside a little past the bridge in the Braemar direction. From the bridge take the road past the end of the old Bridge of Dee to a cross roads at 188905. Go straight across and then straight across the next cross roads at 194899 and on to the Falls of Garbh Allt, in the Ballochbuie natural pine forest, which are well worth a look. They are reached by a track off to the left of the road. Shortly after this at 197895, the road which follows the Feindallachar Burn is taken and left at about 204874 to strike off SE across the heather towards Sandy Loch. South from the Sandy Loch, the Allt Lochan nan Uan is followed into the Coire to the buttress which is climbed to get to the summit of the Stuic. This is about 9km with about 800m of ascent – probably 4-5 hours allowing time for the climb. The return could be made over Carn an t-Sagairt Beag and Mor then back down to the Feindallachar Burn to give a total distance of 18.5 km with 950 m of ascent - probably about a 7 hour day.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club with a good head for heights. If anyone is keen to go on the walk but does not fancy the scramble, then he/she could carry on up the Feindallachar Burn to Carn an t-Sagairt Beag and on to the Stuic from there.

In any case, I suggest that the scramble up the Stuic is only undertaken on the day if there is someone present who is happy to lead the group up it.

If you plan to go on the outing please let Alan Murray know by Thursday 12 July

### Forthcoming Events

- Jul 15<sup>th</sup> Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic
- Aug 19<sup>th</sup> Lairig Ghru
- Sept 15/16<sup>th</sup> Coylumbridge – Shelterstone walk (camp or day walk)

### Glenbuchat

#### Irene Jamieson

After a wander round the ruins of the castle the eight of us, started up the road through Glenbuchat. We enjoyed glorious warm sunshine from the off. Leaving the fields of ewes and lambs playing in the unaccustomed sun we started to climb and a stop was required to cast extra clothing which remained in the packs the whole walk. Passing through Blackhillock Farm we were joined by a lovely Bearded Collie who despite our increasingly authoritative commands of "Get away home!" continued to follow us up the hill. Eventually a mobile number was found on her collar. When it was made apparent that this was usual, and we didn't have to worry about her, we relaxed and enjoyed her company the rest of the way. She particularly enjoyed our frequent stops to refuel! We followed a good Landrover track over Little Firbriggs Hill, Meikle Firbriggs Hill, and skirting Clachmaddy Hill. Due to the early start and wonderful weather we then decided to continue on, leaving the track and heading through the heather to the summit of Creag an Sgor.

From the summit Tor the panorama was spectacular. The sun shone on the snow covered top of Morven and the peaks of Lochnagar, Beinn a Bhuid and Ben Avon - very clear albeit in

the distance. Turning we looked over to Ben Rinnes, The Buck of Cabrach and Bennachie.

As we descended, we detoured off the track to climb White Hill before reaching the road and a walk back to the cars – returning a reluctant dog to its owners on the way.

A well deserved refreshment at the Bridge of Alford completed a fantastic day on the hill in brilliant weather.

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### Lairig Ghru Sunday 14 August Mike Taylor

It is some time since the club organised a walk through this, probably the best known pass in Scotland. It goes through the very heart of the Cairngorms and a rich variety of mountain and woodland scenery. Rothiemurcus Forest on the Aviemore side is one of the finest natural forests in Britain and the pass itself carves a deep, distinctive 'V' in the great masses of Braeriach and Ben Macdui.

The walk is 28 km long with a total ascent of 670m. It is likely to take between 8 and 10 hours.

Your committee needs to know whether we will have enough walkers to pay for two minibuses, one going to each end of the walk and keys being swapped in the middle, or whether we can only afford one bus with someone driving it around from one end of the walk to the other. So...could you please let Gordon Spence (01358 788998) know by the end of June if you intend to go on this walk.

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### Bla Bheinn or Blaven Malcolm Leach

The weather forecast for the weekend was good with no rain and light winds and as some of us had planned to do three Munro's on the Cuillin ridge this was just the forecast we wanted.

However after meeting up with the advance party on Friday evening our plans were hastily changed as the part of the ridge we had intended traversing had been covered in snow and ice earlier that day. Anyone familiar with the Cuillin ridge will know that it demands respect and we decided that the ice and snow would make our traverse more difficult than we wanted. Three of us decided that Blaven would be a good alternative and it was also closer to our base at Broadford.

We made the short journey to the start of the walk at a car park on the west side of Loch Slapin. Blaven looked majestic as we set off in warm sunshine and blue skies.

Our route followed a good path on the north bank of the Allt na Dunaiche past some lovely waterfalls climbing upwards crossing the stream towards the grassy slopes of the Coire Uaigneich. We had decided to take the route to the south top and headed into the corrie. The path became steeper as we continued climbing through the rocks and scree until we reached a point below the south top. The path up from here was indistinct amongst the rocks but we started up scrambling over the rocks until we arrived at the top. We had good views in all directions including the Cuillin ridge which looked most impressive. Our next objective was the highest point of Blaven, about 9 meters higher. To reach this we needed to drop down into a gully and scramble over on to a narrow exposed ledge before continuing up the summit. This is where we encountered a problem. The gully had some snow which we could deal with but the ledge on the other side of the gully where we needed to step on to was wet and looked slippery. We debated for a while and after assessing the potential dangers of a slip here all three of us decided that we could not continue. We retraced our steps to the south top and had our lunch. Our return basically followed the same route as our approach but this time from above we were able to follow the path more easily. After reaching the car we drove the short distance to Torrin, just the other side of the Loch and enjoyed a cuppa looking back at the magnificent Blaven.

Although we did not reach the highest summit we had an excellent day on the hill and now have an excuse to visit Blaven again.

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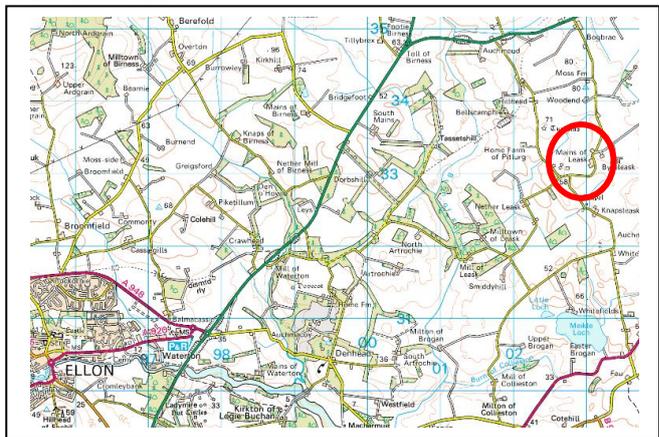
### Mains of Leask Heritage Walk Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June

June sees the start of our monthly summer evening walks; for our June walk we are delighted to be invited to take a "heritage walk" around George and Irene Jamieson's farm at Mains of Leask. This will enable us to find out about some local agricultural history which can be found if you know where to look. The walk will be a mixture of road and field so may be a bit muddy if there has been rain – watch out for those sharny dubs and wear appropriate footwear!

#### Directions for Mains of Leask Farm:

Take Peterhead road out of Ellon - towards Hatton. Around 5 or 6 miles turn right at sign saying Pitlurg/Collieston Turn right on to this road then keep left all the way - (it loops back to the main road again)  
By the 'big house' and up the hill, do not go R to Collieston - you will see our farm to your left in front of you, turn left into the yard at first entrance.

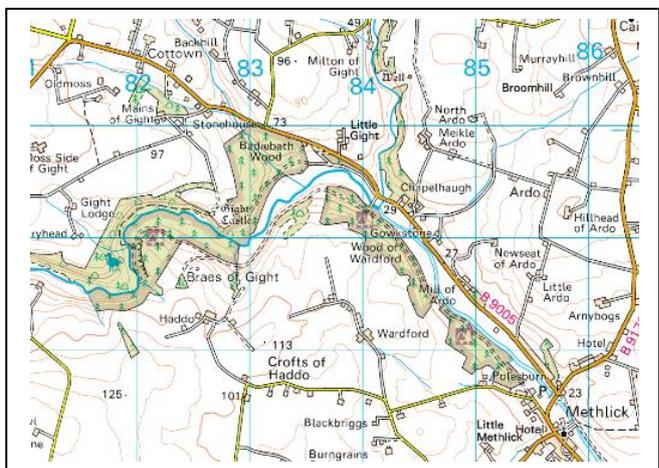
Alternatively for those coming through Newburgh - turn left at Slains school - opposite turn off to Collieston - then keep right. Do not turn off - about 2 miles you come to a T junction (where my egg box is) turn right - the small sign says 'Bogbrae' - the farm is first left.



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### Gight Woods Walk Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July

The July walk is a return to Gight Woods – apparently some new tracks have been opened up, so we hope to explore those during our walk. Either meet at the community centre carpark at 19:00 or at the top car park at Gight Woods at 19:30.





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