



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter June 2013

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Programme:
Monday 10th June 2013
Evening Walk – Windy Hills, Fyvie
Ellon Community Centre Car Park 19:00

Sunday 16th June 2013
Carn an Righ
Focal Pt Malcolm Leach (01358 723314)
Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Carn an Righ (OS Sheet 43)

Mike Taylor

Carn an Righ (Hill of the King) is a remote Mounth hill between Glen Shee and Glen Tilt. According to Drummond (Drummond 1991), there are two possibilities for the identity of the king. An old Latin document records the Muneth (Mounth) being crossed by holy men with relics en route to convert the King of the Picts - perhaps Carn an Righ commemorates this king. Another possibility is King Malcolm Canmore who in the 11th century hunted at Braemar and resided at Blair Atholl, passing and re-passing Carn an Righ half way between.

Mitchell (Mitchell 1998) records an interesting tale of a freebooter, Ian Mackeracher, or Lonavey (from lonach fiadh - greedy for deer).

He had had his arrow hand cut off for poaching, but taught himself to be an expert one-handed shot. Though partly tolerated by the Earl of Athole who showed him off in marksmanship contest, he was eventually captured and died in Perth prison. There he expressed his despair at his confinement, on seeing a bird fly past from out his prison window:

'Had I my gun, from Carn an Righ's height
I'd break your wing and stop your flight'.

He told his fellow prisoners that his gun was hidden in a cave high on that mountain. The tale of the gun lived on in local folklore and was found in the 1870s in a cave high on the hill.

The route up the hill can be started at Spittal of Glenshee but 5km can be taken off a long day by driving up the private road to Dalmunzie Hotel where you can park for a small fee. From here, follow a grassy track below Glenlochsie Farm to the west of the Allt Ghlinn Thaitneach for about 1km to a footbridge across the burn and a good track up Gleann Taitneach which becomes a steep path up Allt Easgaidh to the outflow of Loch nan Uan. Turn west here to pick up the path below Mam nan Cairn then up through areas of quartz scree to the summit. The return is best made by the same route. The total distance for the walk (starting at the hotel) is 22km with an ascent of 800m - probably about 8 hours.

This is a long day but should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part in this outing, please let Malcolm Leach (01358 723314) know by Thursday 13th.

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

Mitchell 1998: Scotland's Mountains Before the Mountaineers, Ian Mitchell, Luath Press

Forthcoming Events

Jul 14th Schiehallion
Aug 18th Jock's Road
Sep 15th Cairngorm and Ben Macdui

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

If there is sufficient demand, we will organise a minibus for this excellent through walk. The committee has decided to subsidise this and charge a 'special' price of only £12. If you would like to take part it is important that you let Gordon Spence (01358 788998) know by the end of May so that we know whether or not we have sufficient demand to justify hiring the minibus.

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

Windy Hills - 10th June 2013

Allan Brown

The June meeting takes the form of an evening stroll through the pine woods of Windy Hills at Woodend, near Fyvie.



We meet at 7:00 pm in the Ellon Community Centre car park where we will sort out transport. If you prefer to meet us there meet us in the Woodend Community Centre car park (sign posted) in the middle of Woodend, on the Methlick to Fyvie road. The path is a mixture of gravel and pine needles with a few small roots breaking the path surface so stout shoes or boots would be advisable. The route is suitable for all members although those with zimmers and wheel chairs may find it a wee bitty awkward. Walking time - probably about an hour or just over.

Skye Weekend

Alan Murray

It was a mixed start for the Skye weekend; Ingrid had a very successful day on Am Basteir and Sgurr nan Gilleann but Gordon and Kayleigh had had to call off for the Friday climb due to last minute work commitments. However, the rest of the party gathered on Friday evening to discuss possibilities for the next day. Ingrid, Gordon and Kayleigh were due to climb The Cioch and Sgurr Alasdair with their guide from Skye Guides, Allan was intent on a walk in Glen Sligachan, Tony wanted to get onto the ridge and the rest of us were of the "let's see what the weather's like..." opinion.



Low level group on the Glen Sligachan Path, Photo - Wendy Beattie

The Cioch, Photo - climbskye.co.uk

Saturday dawned without the hoped-for blue skies and sun melting the tarmac but at least it wasn't raining yet! The Cioch team met up with their guide and set off into the clag. Tony decided Bruach na Frithe would be a sensible target given all the cloud obscuring the ridge and Malcolm decided to join him; the rest of us thought staying low was a good idea and joined Allan for his walk along Glen Sligachan.

The climbing team had a great day; the Cioch was sheltered from the not inconsiderable wind, so they had a good climb with a few adrenaline inducing moments followed by a challenging walk along the ridge in a fairly savage wind to bag Sgurr Alasdair and the usual slog down the Stone Chute into Coire Laggan - but all told a most successful and satisfying day. Tony and Malcolm had a less satisfying day in that they encountered bad visibility and snow underfoot as they made their way up on to the ridge and decided to retreat before getting to their objective, nonetheless a good day on the hill. The rest of us had a less challenging but most enjoyable walk along Glen Sligachan, managing to get a few glimpses of the ridge around Sgurr Ghreadaidh as the cloud briefly lifted and getting a good view of The Bloody Stone in Harta Corrie (which is where, in 1395, the McLeods shared out the booty from the battle of Glen Sligachan before taking the heads of the slain MacDonalds back to Dunvegan Castle (thanks to Allan for this info)). We then headed back to the Sligachan Bunkhouse for a late afternoon cuppa before heading across to the hotel for an early evening meal as there was a ticket only Ceilidh on that night. Mike and Ingrid had to head back to Aberdeen on Saturday evening as they had both entered the Baker Hughes 10k on the Sunday (Mike putting in a very creditable time whilst Ingrid decided that two days climbing and scrambling in Skye was incompatible with 10k runs...) On Sunday Gordon and Kayleigh headed off to Achnasheen to bag Fionn Bheinn, whilst the rest of us made our way back east after yet another enjoyable weekend on the Misty Isle.