



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter May 2015

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Programme:
Monday 11th May 2015
Walking and Huts in Norway
Mike Taylor
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Sat /Sun 16/17th May 2015
Skye Weekend
Sunday 17th May 2015
Clachnaben
Focal Pt Irene Jamieson (☎: 01358 711242)
Community Centre Car Park 08:30

Clachnaben (OS Sheet 43)

Mike Taylor

Clachnaben is one of the most familiar hills in the North East of Scotland. I like the description of it in Drummond (Scottish Hill and Mountain Names):

'Lying on the eastern shoulders of the Mounth, where the gentle swell of the hills lose their wave power before dying out on the plains by the North Sea, Clachnaben is a landmark because of the huge granite tor on top. In Gaelic it is clach na beinne, stone of the mountain, and its prominence is clear from Hamish Brown's estimates of a 300 pace circumference and a 100 feet (30m) height'.

There are a number of recognised routes up the hill all taking about the same time - about a three hour round trip. From the Cairn o'Mount road at 649869 the route passes to the south of Mount Shade and its impressive dry ravine. There is another route from the North via the Burn of Greendams and another starting just west of Spittalburn at 645847.

This is a very straightforward walk which will be well within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in the walk please let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 14 May.

Forthcoming Events

June 8 th	Map and Compass refresher
June 14 th	Beinn Bhreac and Beinn a Choarainn
Jul 19 th	Derry Cairngorm
Aug 16 th	Lairig an Lui
Sep 20 th	Shelterstone

Morrone - March 2015

Margaret Watson

Eleven of us set off in the minibus from Ellon and headed to Braemar. The weather there was lovely! We had to use our ingenuity to get the minibus into the car park next to the duck pond! The ducks all came up from their frozen pond to greet us and look for crumbs.

We set off on our walk through the woods and soon found the right path above the tree line. As it was quite steep we stopped plenty of times to enjoy the lovely weather and the spectacular views over Braemar, Balmoral, the Cairngorm plateau and Lochnagar. As we got higher it was easier to identify the different snow covered mountains of the plateau in the distance.

We got to the transmitter on the summit of Morrone and sat around the buildings there to have lunch. From there we descended south-westerly on the land rover track to make a circular route. We stopped for a coffee break near the bottom of the track before joining the single track public road alongside the Clunie Water. The riverside walk was very picturesque in the nice weather. After following the road through the golf course we took a short cut steeply up through trees and then over the back of the hill to the viewpoint near the car park. The ducks were now enjoying their pond which had thawed in the fine weather! This had been a good day out in fine weather and we had enjoyed the spectacular views.

We had an excellent bar supper at the Boat Inn in Aboyne on the way home. Thank you to Malcolm and Mike for driving the minibus!

Lochnagar April 19th 2015

Ingrid Taylor

A day of first Munros, unbelievably accurate weather forecasts, impressive cornices and impassable gullies!

A group of four of us set off from Ellon in the brand new minibus (very swish!), swooping past Aboyne to collect Alan Murray. Kathleen and her brother met us at the Loch Muick car park and opted for a walk round the Loch rather than attempting Lochnagar, so it was a brief hello, short walk together and then goodbye.

The rest of us set off in misty, but dry weather. A break just below Jacob's ladder confirmed there was a lot of snow sitting in the gullies. I think Tony was more than a little tempted to give the Black Spout a go!

We worked our way up onto the ridge, on a much improved path, looking down over the frozen loch and misty valleys. We worked our way round the ridge to the top where Gus was congratulated on completing his first Munro. The appropriate pictures next to the trig point were taken to mark the occasion. How Gus chose to celebrate this later was interesting! - a very dramatic trip over a tree root whilst taking a photo, to land flat on his face. Luckily only his pride was a little dented - you certainly fell with conviction and style Gus!

On our way back down we took a bypass to marvel at the exit of the Black Spout which Tony had been admiring on the way up - a serious cornice at the top and hanging mist made it very atmospheric indeed and certainly confirmed we'd made the right decision not to attempt it.

We made our return route via the waterfall path and 5 minutes before the predicted time of 3pm the sun came out making it all much more pleasant. No complaint to the BBC weather information service required!

It was a busy path down, but the waterfall was looking impressive and the views equally so. We wound our way back to the bus by the lochside with the resident deer population coming out to say hello. Boots gladly taken off, we set off home, stopping at the Loch Kinord Hotel for a well-earned tea and lovely warm scones; all in all a very successful day out indeed.

Club Equipment

At a recent committee meeting the subject of the Club's library of maps and books and the club equipment that we hold was discussed. Most of this has not been used for many years now and the committee felt that it would be better to offer the items to Club members in return for a small donation to Club funds. I have attached list of the books and equipment with the distribution of this newsletter and these items will be available at the forthcoming Monday evening meetings. Some of the items are no longer suitable for their original purpose due to safety concerns but may still be useful to someone.

If there is any item that you are interested in but you can't get along to the meeting please let Allan Brown know.

Club Facebook Page

The Club now has a Facebook page which will be used to upload pictures from recent walks and give more up to date information on Club events. Why not visit the page and "like" us?



Looking towards the Lochan



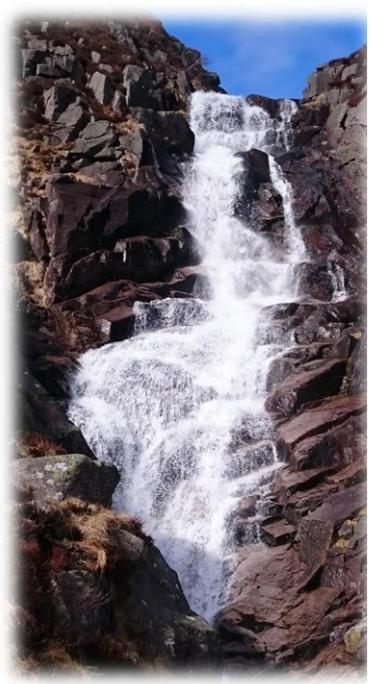
Cornice at the top of the Black Spout



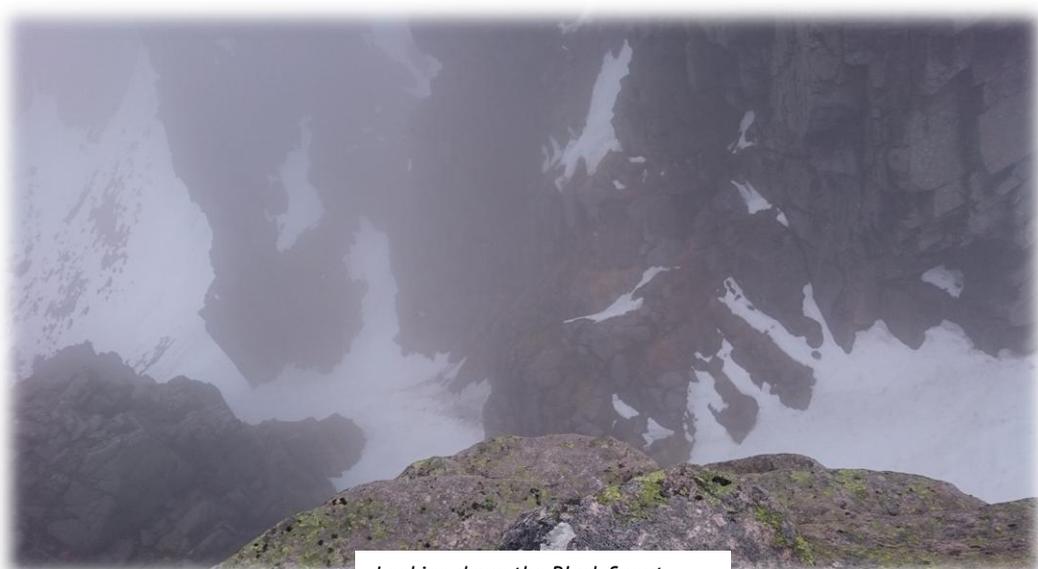
Gus' First Munro



Another view of the cornice



Glas Allt Waterfall



Looking down the Black Spout