



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter May 2016

Secretary: Alan Murray, 2 Batchart Steadings, Aberdeen, AB12 5YQ. Tel: 01224 865515 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

Programme:
Monday 9th May 2016
Gathimba Foundation – Myles Edwards
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30

Fri 13th – Mon 16th Knoydart Weekend
Sun 15th May 2016
Meikle and Little Conval
Focal Pt Irene Jamieson: 01358 711242
Riverside Car Park 08:00

Meikle and Little Conval OS Sheet 28

Mike Taylor

These are two small hills near Dufftown. Meikle Conval at 571m is 19m higher than its sibling, Little Conval.

There are a number of possible starting points for the walk but the most obvious is at GR 309387 on the B9009 south west of Duffton. A track goes up from here beside the electricity line to the col between the two Convals. There are the remains of a large Iron Age fort on the summit of Little Conval and extensive views towards the Cairngorms, the Moray coast and the Glenlivet hills. The walk from here to Meikle Conval is dominated by Ben Rinnes and its prominent granite tor. The simplest way back would be to return to the col then down to the starting point. This gives a walk of 8km with about 500m of ascent - 3 to 4 hours walking

There are possibilities for round trip walks but they would all involve some road walking.

This is a very straightforward walk suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) know by Thursday 12 May

Forthcoming Events

Jun 19th Beinn Iutharn Mhor and Beag
Jul 17th Angel's Peak and Devil's Point
Aug 14th Jock's Road
Sep 16th Glas Maol

Broad Cairn and Cairn Bannoch Walk Report

Dan Carr

I was feeling mildly apprehensive as I drove to Ellon because of the errant snowflakes in the air and because I knew there might be hard snow on the tops, but the thought of good company strengthened my resolve. My companions did not let me down; eight set off to Glen Muick with two more meeting us there, some of whom were new to me.

We started walking at half nine and were soon wending our way around Loch Muick, observing the small landslide on the opposite shore. It wouldn't pose a problem as we could see other walkers had traversed it and anyway if we stuck to the land rover track from Broad Cairn we would pass above it.



Loch Muick from the path up to the Dubh Loch
(Photo Dan Carr)

We stopped briefly at Glas allt Shiel to interpret the names and dates on the building then carried on up the glen. Here we came to our first fork in the path (round Loch Muick or up to Dubh Loch) and after going the wrong way for ten yards, a map was produced and disaster averted!

As we started to ascend we had lovely views looking back and ahead of us the towering cliffs became visible. Here two of our company decided they would proceed at their own pace to Dubh Loch then head back round Loch Muick so we wished them well and parted company (an sms was received to the effect that they had returned to their vehicle safely). Upon reaching the head of Dubh Loch we could see the snow filled gulley in the cliffs that had been suggested as a short cut. We unanimously decided it was best left for better weather or better equipment.

Proceeding through the boggy section (mandatory) we started to ascend to a small plateau where we could see lots of snow! This was what we had got out of bed for! The snow was comfortable to walk on and the gradient quite gentle so we were soon making our way up the slopes of Cairn Bannoch.

The wind hadn't really been a factor until we came to the first summit, where its strength became such that standing up was difficult. So we sat down and enjoyed the view. We could clearly see Broad Cairn ahead, Glen Clova to our right and Mount Keen and Bennachie to our left. The clouds were there, but broken and higher than we.

After something to eat we shouldered our packs and headed off across the snow, keeping right to maintain height. We were now exposed to the full force of the wind at our backs. Everyone had their hoods up and standing still wasn't really an option so we quickly arrived at Broad Cairn and dropped down the other side for some shelter.

We descended to the stable with the bench along one side and regrouped. I took the decision on everyone's behalf that we would take the high road as the wind was not as fierce and the track was better. The snow had now mostly gone, apart from patches on the path, and they too were soon a thing of memory as we marched along the top of the ridge looking down upon Loch Muick. We had a great view of the Glas allt Shiel lodge surrounded by trees on the other bank.

Then came the steep winding track down to the bridge and the lower path. At this point the camaraderie started to fragment a bit as people just walked back at their own pace, thoughts of food foremost in their minds. Still we all met in the car park and said our goodbyes, and agreed how lucky we had been with the weather. Check out the [Facebook page](#) for more photos!

Jock's Road – August Walk

The Club will be using a minibus for the planned Jock's Road through walk in August. As this is likely to be a popular outing it would be helpful to get an idea of numbers and to reserve spaces on the bus. Please let Dan Carr know if you intend coming by texting him on 07772120558 - thanks.

Latest Revision of the 2016 Programme

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to change the proposed June outing - Beinn a'Ghlo - to a couple of slightly more local hills - Beinn Iutharn Mhor and Beag. This will reduce the return driving time by about 3 hours and, we hope, will lead to a higher turn-out. It's also a hill with fine views over the Cairngorms and, as it turns out, Beinn a'Ghlo which is only 13km away as the crow flies. A great opportunity to get away and out into the hills.

2016 Programme (Revised May)

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point	
Jan	11 17	AGM & "Three of the Best" Allan Brown Scolty and Blackhall Forest	19:30 08:30	IJ	
Feb	8 14	Brazil – Joyce Mackie Pressendye	19:30 08:00	IT	
Mar	14 20	Sierra Nejada – Alan Murray Firmouth and the Fungle	19:30 08:00	IT	
Apr	2/3	Bunkhouse Weekend		MT	
Apr	13 17	South Africa - Allan Brown Cairn Bannoch and Broad Cairn	19:30 07:30	DC	
May	9 14/15 15	Gathimba Foundation Myles Edwards Knoydart bunkhouse weekend The Convals	19:30 08:00	MT IJ	
Jun	13 19	Navigation Exercise – Forvie Sands Beinn Iutharn Mhor / Bheag	19:00 07:00	IJ	
Jul	11 17	- Angel's Peak and Devil's Point	19:00 07:00	GS	
Aug	8 14	- Jock's Road	19:00 07:00	DC	
Sep	10 16	Munro Bagging in the 90s Glas Maol etc	19:30 07:00	MW	
Oct	10 16 29/30	Kilimanjaro – Gordon Spence Carn a'Mhaim Bunkhouse weekend	19:30 07:00	AM MT	
Nov	14 20	Morocco - Ingrid Taylor and Allan Brown Coyles of Muick	19:30 08:00	GS	
Dec	12 18	Christmas Party Bennachie	19:30 08:30	MW	