



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter November 2016

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

Programme:
Monday 14th November 2016
Morocco – Allan Brown and Ingrid Taylor
Station Hotel 19:30

Sun 20th November 2016
Coyles of Muick
Focal Pt Gordon Spence: 07896 803032
Riverside Car Park 08:00

Coyles of Muick

OS Sheet 44

Mike Taylor

The OS map labels only the highest Coyle (601m) but locals refer to the range of hills which are obvious from Ballater as the 'Coyles of Muick'. Coyle comes from choille, gaelic for wood - the Coyles are on the edge of the forest spreading up from Glen Muick. The other two hilltops are the Craig of Loinmuie (540m) and Meall Dubh (563m). The Coyles are part of a great belt of serpentine rock which runs south westward from the Moray Firth through Deeside into Perthshire.

The usual starting point for this walk is the metal bridge at 328891 in upper Glen Muick. From here to the highest Coyle is about 2.5 km with about 250m of ascent - about an hour's walk. We should then have time to walk along the whole ridge out to Creag Phiobaidh GR 326948 and back. In total this is another 10km - 2-3 of hours of walking allowing for a few ups and downs and stops to look at the view. Another hour at most back to the bus makes for a total outing of no more than 5 hours. We plan to finish the outing with a bar supper at the Boat Inn in Aboyne.

This is a very pleasant walk which is well within the capabilities of any reasonably fit member of the club. If you plan to go please let Gordon Spence (07896 803032) know by Thursday 17 November.

Forthcoming Events

Dec 12th Christmas Social
Dec 18th Bennachie

BCC Bunkhouse Walk Report - October 2016

Mike Taylor

There was a high degree of uncertainty in the weather forecast for the weekend which led to some uncertainty over the walk to be undertaken on the Saturday.

Seven of us gathered on the Friday evening at the BCC Loch Ness bunkhouse to be met with some surprises. The bunkhouse is not up to the standard it used to be. The rooms are still very nice but the kitchen area is a mess. The fridges and cupboards were full of food, much of which had clearly been there some time, and crockery taken from the cupboards was greasy! Also, the pub within walking distance, 'The Steading Country Inn', is extremely unwelcoming. 'Party size too big! we were told very rudely when we asked if four of us could be accommodated for an evening meal. Fortunately, the Glen Urquhart House Hotel, a couple of miles from the bunkhouse, was very welcoming. We were provided with good food and good cheer on Friday and Saturday evening with a special Hallowe'en flavour to Saturday.

Gordon, Kayleigh, Kenny, Ingrid and I decided to do a moderate walk over the two Munros to the east of Glen Affric, Tom a'Choinich and Toll Creagach. Malcolm and Tony opted for a longer walk up Sgurr na Lapaich, one of the tops of Mam Sodhail, then along the ridge to Mam Sodhail itself, returning along the north shore of Loch Affric.

The weather which met us on Saturday morning was on the better side of the uncertainty. There was cloud over the summits but it was generally bright and had the appearance of a day which might turn out to be reasonable. It did. The cloud continued to swirl around

but it wasn't too thick and broke often enough for us to get some nice views. It was the sort of cloud which makes for a very atmospheric day's walk. It was chilly at times but we didn't have any rain, although Malcolm and Tony did. The walk itself was very pleasant. We hadn't intended to go up the SE ridge of Tom a'Choinich but a path led us there so we followed it and found it to be a very nice way up. Coming off the mostly grassy slopes of Toll Creagach wasn't as tough as I expected it to be. We were off the hill before darkness descended. Some of us had a nice shower before going to dinner but others had to make do with a cold shower due to the lack of hot water at the bunkhouse.

Malcolm and Tony hadn't arrived at the bunkhouse when we left for dinner. Their longer day meant that their walk finished in darkness. They had us a little worried as phone communications had not been successful due to run down batteries. Anyway, they arrived at the restaurant just as we were starting to eat, tired but very satisfied with their day and having achieved their objective.

A good weekend was had by all but I don't think the club will be returning to the BCC Loch Ness bunkhouse

Carn a'Mhaim Walk Report October 2016

Alan Murray

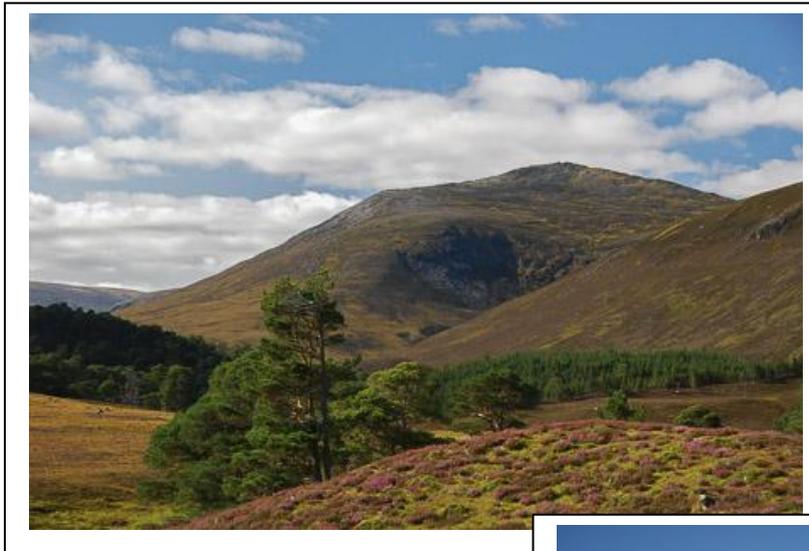
We had a good turnout for the October walk with the minibus full and a couple of walkers new to the Club. The forecast had improved from the one given earlier in the week and we were promised a fairly dry, albeit overcast, day. The group split into two parties with Mike and I opting for a shorter walk up Sgor Mor, north west of the White Bridge and the others heading for Carn a'Mhaim.

Mike and I headed off on the landrover track to White Bridge and then on the left bank of the Dee past the Chest of Dee before heading north east up pathless heathery slopes to the summit of Sgor Mor. We then set off across the ridge to Sgor Dubh; the going was quite rough with little if any path to follow but the visibility was fine and navigation was straightforward. From there our route took us down to Carn an 'Ic Duibhe and then steeply descending through a gap in the trees to the outward path and thence back to the carpark.

The Carn a'Mhaim group made a good pace to Derry Lodge and then, using the bridges, across the Derry Burn and Luibeg Burn before leaving the Lairig Ghru path and heading up the path to Carn a'Mhaim. The pace was brisk and there was little time lost on rest stops. Mike and I had

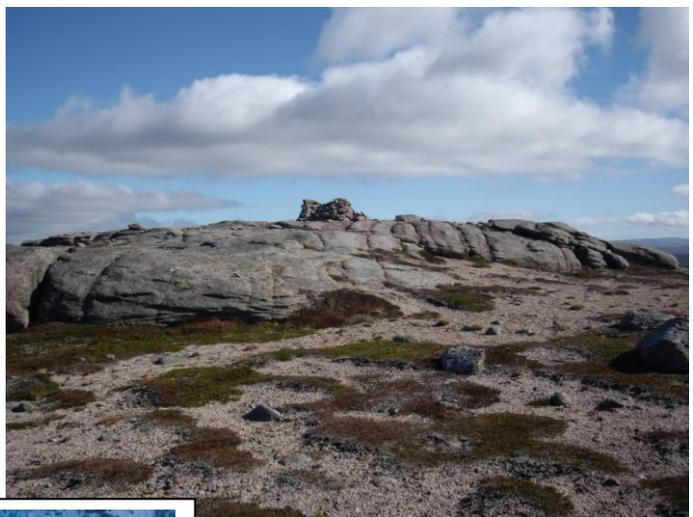
expected to be back at the minibus at least an hour ahead of the others but, in the event, we had only been back about half an hour when the first of the main group turned up, followed about 5-10 minutes later by the others. We were soon all changed and ready for the journey home. In keeping with tradition we managed a stop at the Loch Kinord Hotel in Dinnet where the organisational skills of the barman gave us much to discuss on the way home! It was a very successful day out for all and I'm quite sure everyone slept well that night.

Carn a'Mhaim and Sgor Mor October 2016



Carn a'Mhaim

Sgor Mor



Tiso
Geared up for the outdoors

**HEATHER MORNING
MOUNTAIN SAFETY
LECTURES**

Heather Morning, Mountain Safety Advisor with Mountaineering Scotland will share her beautiful photography, videos, personal anecdotes and adventures, while equipping you with some essential skills for winter navigation, avalanche awareness, route choice, equipment, mountain weather and much more. With a lifetime's experience in the mountains, Heather has been a professional mountaineer for 25 years and was a member of Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team for 16 years.

ABERDEEN
Thursday 24th November
7.30pm (Doors open at 7.00pm)

14-20 John Street, Aberdeen, AB25 1BT (T:0138 222 1153)

MCS
THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND
STREAP ALBA