



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter September 2014

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Programme:

Monday 8th September 2014

**Dolomites and Other Rambles – Gordon Spence
Station Hotel Ellon 19:30**

Sunday 14th September 2014

Carn Ban Mor and Sgor Gaoith

Focal Pt Dan Carr (Text to 07772120558)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Carn Ban Mor and Sgor Gaoith (OS 36 / 43)

Mike Taylor

The walk to Sgor Gaoith via Carn Ban Mor gains height through a very good path and, on a clear day, provides some wonderful views.

The starting point is the parking area just north of Achlean in Glen Feshie. From near here, a track, called the Foxhunters' Path, goes up the north side of the Allt Fhearnagan (Burn of the Little Alder Place). It continues to 1030m on the plateau just south of the summit of Carn Ban Mor (Big Fair Hill). The hollow at the source of the burn, called Ciste Mearaid (Margaret's Coffin), holds snow late into the year. The summit of Sgor Gaoith (Peak of the Wind) is a very easy couple of kms to the NNE of here. This summit is a little promontory on the edge of crags which fall 500m to Loch Einich - very dramatic! This is 8km from the start with just over 800m of ascent and is likely to take 3-4 hours. The return could be made by the same route giving a total walk of 5-6 hours.

Another possibility is to make a round trip of the walk by descending to the west via the Allt a'Chrom-alltain bowl, going NW around the lower slopes of Meall Tionnaail and picking up the track which goes to the north side of the Allt Ruadh and then down to the road about 3km north of the car park. The distance from the summit of Sgor Gaoith is just over 9km so the round trip would still be about 5-6 hours but is along a road for the last 3km. This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club.

If you are interested in taking part in this walk, please text Dan Carr (07772120558) by Thursday 11 September.

Forthcoming Events

Oct 19th Cairnwell Munros (x3)
Oct 25/26th Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend
Nov 16th Ben Tirran
Dec 14th Conachcraig

Monday Evening Meetings

Monday evening meetings start again this month with a change to the advertised programme; Gordon Spence will be telling us about a recent trip to the Italian Dolomites (and possibly some other trips with the Club closer to home). The meeting is in the Station Hotel starting at 19:30. Please try to come along and support the Club.

Lairig an Laoigh (Ryvoan Pass)

Ingrid Taylor

Eleven of us set off bright and early to walk, with Mike Taylor coming along to drive the bus so we could make a through-walk. So, firstly, a big thank you to Mike for doing that.

The forecast was for gales and thunderstorms at 1pm and with the huge amounts of rain that had fallen the week beforehand, it was decided the Fords of Avon would be impassable, making the Lairig an Laoigh a non-starter. After considering a round walk coming back along Strath Nethy, which was 24k, we settled on a different through walk along the Ryvoan Pass.

So, off we set, starting at Glenmore Lodge in light drizzle, which soon became sun. A few brave souls took off their waterproofs and got a little while without needing them! We halted briefly at the Lochain Uaine (the Green Lochan), but we didn't see any fairies washing their clothes this time. We took another little halt at the Ryvoan Bothy, which had a few people occupying it and even a tent up outside!

The route then continued over the top of the pass and into some lovely natural woodland. It did start to rain quite heavily, but it was only showers and we certainly didn't experience the thunderstorms or gales, well, not at the height we were at. There were a few midges out and about, but we chose our lunch stop well on a little rise and when there was enough wind to keep them at bay.

We made it to the bus, which Mike had taken up to Dell Lodge, by just before 2 pm. After a stop for drinks at the Nethy Bridge Hotel, we drove back to Ellon having had a very pleasant day out on a day when the forecast really wasn't one for walking at all!

Ledgowan Bunkhouse Weekend

All spaces at the bunkhouse have now been taken up but if there are any members still wishing to join us on the weekend it might be possible to book B&B at the Ledgowan Hotel (although more costly) or a B&B in the area.

