



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter September 2016

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

Programme:
Monday 12th September 2016
Munro Bagging 90s Style
Station Hotel 19:30

Sun 18th September 2016
Glas Maol and Creag Leacach
Focal Pt Dan Carr: 07772 120558
Riverside Car Park 07:00

Glas Maol and Creag Leacach OS Sheet 43

Mike Taylor

The walk starts at the ski area car park near the summit of the A9, climbing eastwards over a knoll and then down into a dip at the foot of the Meall Odhar ski tows. The route up is to the right of the tow, over Meall Odhar and on to the summit of Glas Maol where the old counties of Aberdeen, Angus and Perth meet. The name Glas Maol suggests green/grey bald hill but, according to Adam Watson in the SMC Guide, in local speech the old name was An Glas Mheall - the grey/green lump. An interesting feature just east of the Glas Maol summit are the tiny subarctic hummocks, 15-25 cm high, which are the result of alternating frost and thaw - we have found these on previous visits..

The summit of Creag Leacach (Slabby Rock) is 2.5 km away with only 80 m of climbing. The first part of the ridge up to the summit is narrow and rocky, which is unusual for these hills, but does not present any difficulties.

The way back starts by going over the SW Top then NW over Meall Gorm and down to a path. The return to the car park could be made via the A93 by crossing the Allt a'Ghlinne Bhig but it is probably safer and more pleasant to walk up the Leacann Dubh and then down to the car park.

The total distance is about 12km with about 800m of ascent - between four and five hours walking.

This walk should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Dan Carr 07772 120558 (text) know by Thursday 15 September.

Forthcoming Events

Oct 16th Carn a'Mhaim
Oct 29/30th Bunkhouse Weekend
Nov 20th Coyle of Muick

Jock's Road Walk Report - August 2016

Dan Carr

There were nine people in the minibus for the Jock's Road walk in August, including Mike the driver (many thanks Mike) and Kenny, who came along to take some photos and keep Mike company. As soon as we disembarked the midges made themselves known so we said au revoir to Mike and Kenny (they would drive around to pick us up from the other end) and headed into the woods.

The start is gentle and well signposted and we were soon at the junction where we split from the main track. "Jocks Road Open" a sign said. "That's handy" we said, and carried on! After a couple of kilometres we emerged from the trees and had a great view of Glen Doll. We stopped to take some photos, but not for long as there was no wind and the midges were on our tail.

The path began to steepen the further up we got until we had quite a view back down the glen. We stopped for a bit at the shelter. There are two red poles on the path that I don't remember from last time so that

people heading south don't walk past the shelter without seeing it.

As we carried on we could see Tom Buidhe (957m) and Tolmount (958m) ahead. We discussed the option of diverting off to bag Tolmount (Tom Buidhe was belittled and ignored) and five people chose to make the trip as the weather was so accommodating (high clouds and no wind). George and I continued on the main path, which took us over Crow Craigies (920m) and then to the lip of Glen Callater.

Using gps I was pretty sure we were on the path shown on my map, but the descent into Glen Callater was fraught with doubt. Often the path would appear and disappear and we joked that we were on Jocks Road, then Dan's road, then George's! We had a good view of the slope below us and we met some people coming the other way, and by now the sun was breaking through so it was a pleasant descent.

Once at the bottom we could see no sign of the other party, and on the off chance they were coming down a different gully we carried on, stopping frequently to eat and take photos. The sun had thoroughly dispersed the cloud cover so it was a very pleasant walk to the loch and the path is good, with large stepping stones in the boggiest areas. We walked around the loch to Lochcallater Lodge where we met Kenny, who had walked in from the Auchallater car park. We borrowed his binoculars and identified the five Munro baggers just arriving at the other end of the loch, so we settled into the bothy to eat, and to hide from a Rhodesian ridgeback roaming outside (some people were staying in the lodge opposite).

The other group soon arrived and took the load off their feet for a bit. Then, reunited, we headed down the track towards the car park. I remembered from previous walks how long this monotonous section of track can seem, as the car park is in a dip and the road is hidden in a valley so you can't see either until you're practically on top of them. When we arrived Mike and the minibus were there to greet us, and we headed back to Ellon (via the Loch Kinord hotel) having had a very pleasant day in the hills.

October Bunkhouse Weekend

Mike Taylor

We have beds reserved at the BCC Lochness Hostel for the nights of Friday 28 and Saturday 29 October

<http://www.bcclochnesshostel.co.uk/>

This hostel is in Glen Urquhart to the north of Drumnadrochit. It has been visited by the club in the fairly recent past and received a favourable report. There are a number of walks in the area, particularly in Glen Affric which is not far away.

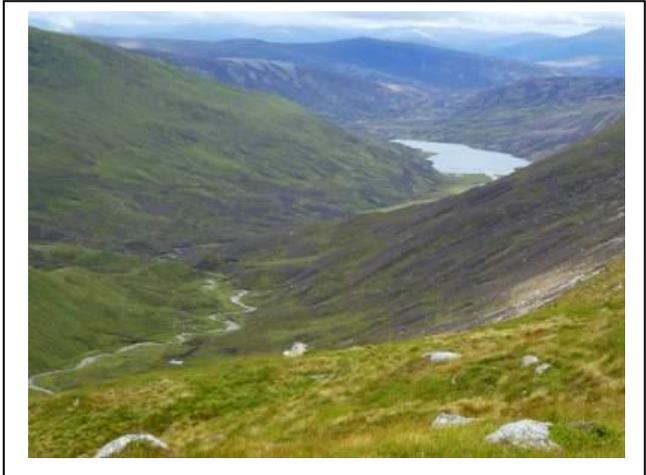
The cost is £20 per bed per night. Would anyone interested in taking part in this weekend please send £40 to Mike Taylor by Friday 16 September?

Mike can be contacted by emailing lochaneilein@gmail.com Cheques should be made payable to Ellon Hillwalking Club and sent to Mike at Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, ABERDEEN, AB21 0UQ. Payments are not refundable unless the weekend is cancelled by the club or bunkhouse.

Jock's Road August 2016



Jock's Road Memorial Shelter



Looking Towards Loch Callater



Looking Back to Glen Doll



Emerging from the trees in Glen Doll



Looking back from Glen Callater



Loch Callater from the bothy

All photos George Slessor