



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – March 2026

Secretary: Irene Jamieson, irenemjamieson@hotmail.com

Programme: Monday 9th March 2026 Torres del Paine - Brian Station Hotel Ellon 19:30	Sunday 15th March Gannoch and Hill of Cat Focal Point – Irene (07817643429) Riverside Carpark – 07:30
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Gannoch and Hill of Cat OS Landranger 44 Margaret

Start/finish grid reference: NO532906

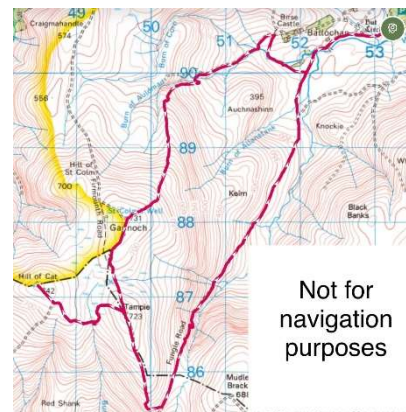
Terrain.* woodland and moorland tracks and paths, possible pathless sections over boggy ground and heather moorland

Distance approx.** 19km

Ascent approx.** 740m

Walk time approx.** 6.5-7 hours

(Sources: *Walkhighlands, **OS Maps app)



The club attempted this walk last year but we had to turn back due to blizzard conditions! Hopefully the weather will be more favourable this time!

The walk starts at the end of the public road near Ballochan. The track past the castle is a private road, so we will plan to take an alternative bypass track around nearby properties. This joins the Gannoch track at grid ref NO516905. We then follow this track SW climbing to the summit of Gannoch. From there the track continues south to the summit of Tampie, where we turn right on a track which takes us almost to the summit of Hill of Cat. To make a circular route we can retrace our steps to Tampie and then turn south for approx 1.5km to meet the Fungle Road, and following this in a NE direction we return to the starting point.

If you wish to join this walk then please contact Irene by Thursday 12th March

Bunkhouse Weekends 2026 Ingrid

April 10th to 12th, Tyndrum By the Way Hostel. £56 per person. 3 spaces .

September 18th to 20th, Corran Ferry bunkhouse. £82 per person. 4 spaces.

June 19th to 22nd (3 nights). Andy's compleation weekend on Skye. Let Andy know if you are planning to go so he has numbers for the celebration meal.

Dufftown Circular 15.2.26 Andy Me

Seven of us, myself, Irene, Brian, George, Andy McN, Andy A and Fiona met up on a cold, but dry, morning in Ellon before heading off in 2 cars to Dufftown.

Setting off, initially through Dufftown, we were quickly into a small woodland which lead us over a field to the ruins of Balvenie castle, which must have looked impressive in its day. Passing this, and heading past the distillery, meant we had a short walk on a pavement alongside the road before reaching the train station (for the Keith to Dufftown railway). Here we joined the old railway track which ran alongside the River Fiddich, crossing it a couple of times on bridges, before we reached Craigellachie. There were comments along the way on the engineering involved in constructing this, and how much freight was transported. An impressive feat in this narrow valley.

At Craigellachie, we had a short break for refreshments, before resuming on the old railway line to Aberlour, where we found the cafe at the station to be closed. The toilets were still open, so another short refreshment break was taken.

This was where we left the railway, which had been generally clear of any snow or ice, and headed through Aberlour, passing the cottage hospital, and began gaining height. After a few hours of 'flat' walking, this felt harder than it should have been. Following a minor road out, past a couple of impressive houses, and continuing to gain height all the time brought us into woodland, and a good forestry track.

Continuing to gain height, passing beneath the Knock of Gownie, eventually brought us to the end of the forest, at 340m high, and opened up views over Moary with the distillery we had passed at the start of the day clearly visible. While there had been a little snow on the ground, it was just a dusting.

Leaving the forestry track behind we began to descend on a path, initially on open moorland, before running alongside Burnhead Wood. This brought us down, passing a farm, back into Dufftown and the cars. Finding a coffee shop still open, we all ventured in for a coffee and cake where we all agreed it had been a good day out, before the return to Ellon.



photos – George



photo – Andy Me

Walks and talks programme 2026

Month	Date	Event	Time	FC
Jan	12 18	A.G.M. Bennachie	19:30	MW
Feb	9 15	Dr M Reading. Meteorologist Dufftown Circular	19:30 07:30	AMe
March	9 15	Torres del Paine, Patagonia. Brian Gannoch and Hill of Cat	19:30 07:30	IJ
April	10-12 13 19	Bye The Way. Tyndrum Charity Air Ambulance -Claire Bain Creag an deal Bheag/Culardoch	19:30 07:30	MW
May	11 17	Presentation – Alan The Stuic Càrn a' Choire Bhòidheach	19:30 07:30	BM
June	8 14 19-21	Evening walk Tappie Tower. Kirkhill Forest Bike and hike from Linn of Dee Skye		
July	19	Ben Mheadhion	07:00	
Aug	16	Carn Bhac	07:30	
Sept	14 18 - 20 13	Kintyre Way – Andy Me Corran bunkhouse Through walk	19:30 07:00	
Oct	12 18	TBC Gael Charn (Dorback)	19:30 07:3-	
Nov	9 15	Presentation – Andy McN Cairn Vachich and the Socach	19:30 08:00	
Dec	14 20	Christmas party Peterhill	19:30 08:00	