



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter May 2010

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bieldside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: aa.murray@btinternet.com

Programme:

Monday 10th May 2010

Club Quiz Night

Station Hotel 20:00

Sat / Sunday 15th / 16th May 2010

Skye Weekend

Focal Pt Mike Taylor (01651 862234)

Sunday 16th May 2010

Alternative Walk – Loch Muick Area

Focal Point Irene Jamieson (01358 711242)

Community Centre Car Park 07:30

Skye Weekend 14-16 May

Mike Taylor

By now, if you are intending to go on the Skye weekend, you should have booked your accommodation at the Carbost Bunkhouse through Mike Taylor. If you have had a last minute change of circumstances and want to join the Club weekend, I would suggest you contact the Old Inn Carbost (www.carbost.f9.co.uk) or 01478 640205 to see what accommodation is possible. There is a full range of walking and climbing activities on Skye: the Cuillin for those with a good head for heights; the Quiraing if you want to see something very unusual; Macleod's Tables for a straightforward hill walk; a trip to Raasay with a walk up Dun Caan for those who fancy a bit of small island hopping; and much, much more. Decisions about what to do are usually made in the bar on the Friday evening where those with a good knowledge of the island can be consulted.

Alternative Walk 16 May Loch Muick Area

Mike Taylor

For those not going to Skye who still fancy a visit to the hills, provisional arrangements have been made for a trip to the Loch Muick area, possibly climbing Broad cairn.

Starting from the car park at the end of the road up Glen Muick, there is a fine low level walk around Loch Muick which is about 13 km and takes 3-4 hours.

If the weather is good and the mood is right, the ascent of Broad Cairn, which dominates the view up Loch Muick, would add a couple of hours to this but would be well worth the effort.

If you're interested, get in touch with Irene Jamieson (01358 711242) by Thursday 13th

Forthcoming Events

Jun 20th Fairy Glen

Jul 18th Derry Cairngorm

Aug 15th Ben Wyvis

Lochnagar

Barbara Wyatt

Ten of us gathered at 7:30am and climbed into three cars. It was cold & a bit wet....what would Lochnagar have in store for us? Brian drove the car I travelled in. Margaret & I were the passengers as far as Aboyne where Gregor joined us...eventually...but not before a few urgent calls from Brian to locate his son and let him know we were waiting. Allan Donaldson sped past us while we waited with George and John accompanying him. Gregor arrived. Brian speeded.

We arrived last. Ian and his passengers, Les, Wendy and Malcolm had also arrived before us.

It was around 9:30am when we finally all headed off along the path towards Lochnagar. Increasing loads of snow were apparent, blanketing the ground, as your eyes followed the hills upwards. As we started our climb, snow came to meet us and our views contracted down to metres around us. John led, guided by a "keep left" and "yes, keep going" here & there. And later there were mutterings when maps, GPS devices and compasses all seemed to point over the edge of the cliffs as our way forward. We didn't topple over the cliffs but we did go the edge to photograph and marvel at the numerous snow cornices treacherously hanging on.

Jebel Sahro - Morocco

Alan Murray

Following a chance meeting with Alan Melrose of WalkDeeside, he enquired whether the Club would be interested in a walking trip to Morocco. He leads such trips both to climb Mount Toubkal (4167m) and to the Jebel Sahro range on the edge of the Sahara desert.

This was discussed at a recent committee meeting and we decided to determine whether there was sufficient interest amongst Club members to take it any further. The proposal would be to arrange a trip for Sept or October 2011 and the cost would be around £850 per person. As an indication this year's itinerary is as follows:

Day1 Fly from Scotland to Marrakech; Transfer to Riad Omar, Marrakech, meet Week 1 participants.

Day 2 Minibus to Tagdilt (6/7hrs); Stay in Gite D'Etape, Tagdilt

Day 3 Trek to Almo Warg/camp; 5/6 hrs with 15-20kms

Day 4 Trek to Igli/camp; 5/6 hrs with 15-20kms

Day 5 Trek around the Igli valley

Day 6 Trek to Handour/Gite; 6/7 hrs with 15-20kms

Day 7 Trek to N'Coub; 5/6 hrs with 15-20kms; Transfer to Kasbah Bahabaha

Day 8 Travel back to Marrakech; A day exploring the Souks and Minarets of Marrakech

Day 9 Travel back to Scotland

Please let a member of the committee know if you might be interested in joining such a trip.

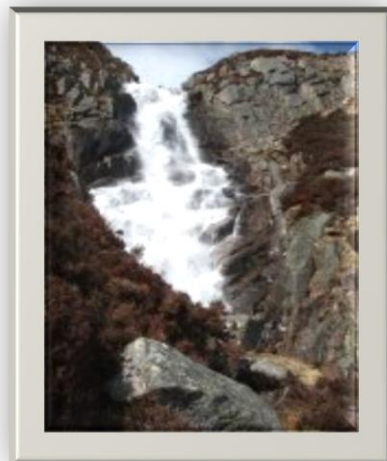




John led us to the summit, not up any well constructed path or via any zig zag path up the Ladder referred to in Mike's description...or maybe he did...who knows?...the snow covering was over a foot deep in places hiding all sign of paths. The restricted views lifted at the summit to reveal a sun that revisited us frequently during the afternoon accompanied by intermittent showers.



After lunch we headed off down towards the waterfall and Loch Muick several miles away. Some among us slipped back into childhood and scampered downwards, jumping over the snow. Torrents of water tumbled over the waterfall. The steps down to Loch Muick took us further away from the snow. We ambled back along the shores of the loch to the cars. The pub beckoned us in on our way home. A really good day out!



(All photos Alan Donaldson)