



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – February 2010

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bielside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: aamurray@tiscali.co.uk

Programme:
Monday 8th February 2010
Namibia – Alan Murray
Station Hotel 20:00

Sunday 14th February 2010
Falls of Damph Glen Lee
Focal Pt Alan Murray (01224 869896)
Community Centre Car Park 08:30

Glen Lee and the Falls of Unich and Damff OS Sheet 44

Mike Taylor

Glen Lee, at the top of Glen Esk, is steep and craggy. The falls are tucked in behind Graig Maskeldie; a fine, sharp peak when viewed from Loch Lee.

The walk starts at the car park at Invermark (GR 447804). From here a road is followed westwards, past the ruin of Invermark Castle to the old churchyard at the end of Loch Lee. The track then continues along the north side of the loch and at its end, at a junction at Glenlee Lodge, our route bears to the right. The track passes a weir in the Water of Lee, which is then crossed a little further on by a wooden bridge. The **Falls of Unich** (*Unaich – confusion, disturbance*), in a fine gorge, are soon reached. The path then climbs between Hunt Hill and Craig Maskeldie up to a boggy moor and the **Falls of Damff** (*Damh – stag*). The best view of these is gained by dropping onto a shelf next to them. Beyond the falls the path we want crosses a wooden bridge onto the south side of the burn and climbs to the summit of Cairn Lick. The path then zig zags down the shank of Inchgrundle (*Innis Grunndaile – meadow of good foundation*) to Inchgrundle Farm, on to Loch Lee and back to the Car Park.

The walk is about 16 km long with an ascent of 410m – 5-6 hours. It should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club but remember it is winter, so come suitably equipped.

For those who wish a shorter walk it will be possible to take an alternative shorter route.

If you intend to go on the walk please let Alan Murray (01224 869896) know by Thursday 11 February.

Forthcoming Events

Feb 15th Falls of Damph Glen Lee
Mar 15th Sgor Mor (from White Bridge to Derry Lodge) & Bar Supper
Apr 18th Lochnagar

2010 Programme

The finalised programme for 2010 is overleaf. An A5 version is also available for future reference.

2010 Subscriptions

At the AGM in January it was agreed that the annual subscription would be increased as follows:

- Individual £15
- Family £30
- Junior £1

If you haven't already done so please send your subscription to the treasurer, Allan Brown, at 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW at your earliest convenience.

The Knock - Irene Jamieson

The terrible weather the day before may have been partly responsible for a smaller than usual group setting out. It was a crisp frosty morning however with the promise of a chilly but good clear day and six of us including new member Mike left for The Knock.

We were diverted through Keith due to a bridge being closed since the last floods, and those of us not having travelled far inland previously, were surprised at the depth of snow still lying at the sides of roads and covering fields.

We discovered the access road covered in ice and decided it would be safer to walk so left the cars some way along the road near the old Glen Barry hotel. The road to the hill was very icy and called for careful walking, but we reached the start of the hill with only one casualty, fortunately not serious.

Due to the depth of the snow it was difficult to see a path but the obvious route was up so we plodded on, ziz zagging, ours the only footprints save for fox and rabbit.

Progression was slow but steady. The snow was sometimes hard enough to walk a few yards on the surface but suddenly it would give way and we would be struggling through snow above our knees. The day remained clear and bright, however, and we enjoyed remarkable scenery as we made the occasional brief stop for a rest and a chat.

It was worth the effort when reached the top then found a sunny spot sheltered from the slight but cool wind to have our lunch. Apart from a slight haze we admired panoramic views of the countryside to the Banff shire coast and over to Bennachie.

On the way up it was noticed some of the well covered braes could provide some fun on the descent so we donned the waterproofs ready. Whenever we came to a smooth slope we sat down and enjoyed the easy way down the hill.

On reaching the end of our walk, after some calculations on distance and daylight hours, we decided to leave the Bin of Cullen, the other hill planned for this outing, for another day. The diversion, the ice on the roads and the heavy going on the hill meant we had taken longer than originally thought.

It had been an excellent winter walk in lovely weather so it was off to the Drum of Wartle for some refreshment before heading home.



Photo Irene Jamieson

2010 Programme

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	11 17	AGM & Slide Show Bin of Cullen and the Knock	20:00 08:30	Barbara Wyatt
Feb	8 14	Namibia – Alan Murray Falls of Damph Glen Lee	20:00 08:30	Alan Murray
Mar	8 14	Gear Night Sgor Mor (from White Bridge to Derry Lodge) & Bar Supper	20:00 08:30	Malcolm Leach
Apr	12 18	New Zealand – Mike Taylor Lochnagar	20:00 07:30	Barbara Wyatt
May	10 15/16 16	Club Quiz Night Skye Weekend – Carbost bunkhouse Broad Cairn / Loch Muick area	20:00 07:30	Mike Taylor Irene Jamieson
Jun	14 20	Navigation Exercise Fairy Glen / Ben Avon	19:00 07:00	Gordon Spence
Jul	12 18	Evening Walk - Hill of Barra Derry Cairngorm	19:00 07:00	Malcolm Leach
Aug	9 15	Brimmond Hill Ben Wyvis	19:00 07:00	Barbara Wyatt
Sep	13 19	Bob Davies – Mount Meru Tanzania?? Devil's Point	20:00 07:00	Gordon Spence
Oct	11 17 30/31	Costa Rica – Allan Brown Morrone Bridge of Orchy Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 08:00	Allan Brown Mike Taylor
Nov	8 14	Members' Slide Night Meall a Buchaille (Glenmore Lodge) & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	Mike Taylor
Dec	13 19	Christmas Party Ben Rinnes	20:00 08:30	Alan Murray

North East Mountain Trust Lectures

Wednesday 17th February 2010

Nicola Seal

Lyme Disease-What the doctors do not tell you!

Given from a personal perspective as a Lyme disease sufferer; the cause, recognition, prevention and treatment of Lyme disease

Belmont Club, 218 Hardgate Aberdeen

Tickets at the door £4