



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – February 2011

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

Programme:

Monday 14th February 2011

Winter Skills Evening

Station Hotel 20:00

Sunday 20th February 2011

Geallaig

Focal Pt Barbara Wyatt (01358 711733 or 07531 467180)

Community Centre Car Park 08:00

Winter Skills Baddoch Burn OS Sheet 43

Mike Taylor

We had planned to hire someone for this outing to provide instruction in winter hillwalking skills, especially use of the ice axe and avalanche awareness, but this has proved to be too expensive.

Instead, we will hold an in house session where those of us who have some knowledge of winter skills will practise them and pass them on, as best we can, to others.

We will walk up the Baddoch Burn off Glen Clunie starting at GR 138831 and seek out some nice concave, snow covered slopes in which we can test out our ice axes. We will also have a look at the snow and make some assessments of the avalanche risk. How far we walk on the day will depend on conditions and how much time the activities take.

We can share ice axes, if necessary, as we don't plan to undertake a serious walk, but if possible, try to bring one with you. The usual winter clothing and provisions will be required but the outing should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club who is happy to slide down snow fields.

There will be a bar supper organised at the Boat Inn, Aboyne, after this walk, a copy of the menu will accompany this newsletter; please take a look and decide what you would like so that the order can be placed on the Sunday morning of the walk – thanks.

If you want to come on the outing, please let Barbara Wyatt (01358 711733 or 07531 467180) know by Thursday 17 February

Forthcoming Events

Mar 19/20th Beinglas Wigwam weekend

Mar 20th Alternative Clach na Beinn walk

Apr 17th Carn an Tuirc etc

May 14/15th Skye Weekend

June 19th Lochnagar Black Spout (LHB)

2011 Programme

The confirmed programme for 2011 is overleaf. Some of the evening talks are not yet confirmed but changes will be notified in the newsletter.

Annual Subscriptions 2011

At the AGM on Monday 10th January it was decided to maintain the annual subscriptions at the same level as 2010, i.e. £15 for an individual, £30 for a family and £1 for a junior. These are now due, so if you haven't already done so please send a cheque for the appropriate amount to Allan Brown, 8a Riverview Place, Ellon, AB41 9NW at your earliest convenience – many thanks.

Geallaig

Irene Jamieson

It must be a long time since the women outnumbered the men on one of our hill walks.

New recruit, Susan joined Barbara, Margaret, Wendy, myself, George, Les, and George for the walk up Geallaig.

We left the cars half way along the road to Braenaloin where we found a track near a cairn at the top of the hill. The sharp wind and hint of precipitation encouraged us to wrap up well as we eventually found and followed a good landrover path. Any rain was quickly blown away in the wind and although chilly we were surprised by the lack of snow. There had obviously been a big shift since the beginning of the year and the only snow lay in patches in sheltered gullies. We stopped for elevenses just below the summit, the sky was quite clear and we admired good views of Lochnagar and adjacent hills.

The circular drystone dyke surrounding the pillar at the summit was a very welcome refuge, as we clambered in for a chat and lunch after coping with an extremely strong wind on the plateau. There was little chance of conversation on the way down, however, as we struggled with the wind until dropping down to shelter.

Near the end of the track, we decided to cut the corner and go "off road". After successfully crossing two fast flowing burns and negotiating a short steep snow slope we continued through the heather, to come off the hill nearer the cars and save a long walk on tar.

An enjoyable day was rounded off by a welcome soft seat and refreshment at Dinnet, a good start to our 2011 walks programme.

Geallaig Hill: Picture Gordon Spence



2011 Programme

Some of the Monday evening presentations are still provisional please check newsletters or the website for up to date information.

Month	Date	Event	Time	Focal Point
Jan	10 16	AGM & Slide Show (AB) Geallaig Hill	20:00 08:30	
Feb	14 20	MCofS Walking Skills DVD Walk and Winter Skills Practice & Bar Meal	20:00 08:00	Barbara Wyatt
Mar	14 20	Sahara Trek – Andy Gray Beinglas wigwam weekend; Alternative Sunday walk Clachnaben	20:00 08:30	Mike Taylor Irene Jamieson
Apr	11 17	Hurtigruten Trip – Mike Taylor Carn an Tuirc / Carn o Claise / Tolmount / Tom Buidhe	20:00 07:30	Gordon Spence
May	9 14/15 15	Tanzania – Marion Harley Skye Weekend – Sligachan bunkhouse Beinn Iutharn Mhor	20:00 07:30	Alan Murray Barbara Wyatt
Jun	13 19	Lenabo (Forestry Comm guided walk) Lochnagar – Black Spout (LHB)	19:00 07:00	Malcolm Leach
Jul	11 17	Haddo and Prop of Ythsie Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Stuic	19:00 07:00	Malcolm Leach
Aug	8 14	Collieston Coastal Walk Cairngorm area and the Shelter Stone	19:00 07:00	Brian Milne
Sep	12 18	Allan Brown? Carn an Righ from Spittal of Glenshee	20:00 07:00	Gordon Spence
Oct	10 16 29/30	Tierra de Fuego – Bob Davis Culardoch Kinlochewe Bunkhouse Weekend	20:00 08:00	Irene Jamieson Mike Taylor
Nov	14 20	Mount Blair and Dubh Craig & Bar Supper	20:00 07:30	Alan Murray
Dec	12 18	Christmas Party Craig nan Gabhar	20:00 08:00	Allan Brown