



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – May 2011

Secretary: Alan Murray, 7 Earlsparke Avenue, Bielside, Aberdeen, AB15 9BU. Tel: 01224 869896 email: alnj.murray@gmail.com

Programme:

Monday 9th May 2011

Tanzanian Expedition

Marion Harley

Station Hotel 20:00

Sat / Sun 14 / 15th May 2011

Skye Weekend

Focal Pt Alan Murray (07825002385)

Sunday 15th May: Beinn Iutharn Mor

Focal Pt Barbara Wyatt (07531467180)

Community Centre Car Park 07:30

Skye Weekend OS Sheet 23 and 32

Mike Taylor

As usual, the club will be visiting Skye in May. This time we are staying in the bunkhouse at Sligachan.

<http://www.sligachan.co.uk/sligachan-bunkhouse.php>

The bunkhouse is new to us but Sligachan is well-known. In the good old days the club used to camp at the camp site and we have often used Seamus' Bar as a place to eat – and drink.

The bunkhouse is described as follows:

Catering for up to 20 people, this recently refurbished building has all the essential facilities for the adventurous types: four dormitories – two sleep four and two sleep six.; lounge with open fire – fuel provided; kitchen with six burner cooker, 2 fridges and all utensils; large hall, two shower rooms, wash room and two toilet areas; utility and drying area. Towels and bedding are provided at an extra cost. Electric heating is available in each room. It is located across the river from Sligachan Hotel.

The cost per person has been set at £20 (I assume we will all take our own sleeping bags and towels) 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 is to be undertaken will be made in the bunkhouse on the Friday evening.

If you want to secure a place in the bunkhouse please send £40 (which is non-refundable) to Alan Murray (Flat B 298 Broomhill Road, Aberdeen, AB10 7NF), as soon as possible.

Beinn Iutharn Mhor OS Sheet 43

Text adapted from Walkhighland.com

There is a small car park in Inverey. This remote community was the last place in eastern Scotland where Gaelic was spoken, in the 1930s; it is split by the Ey burn; the east side (Meikle Inverey) was Protestant whilst the west (Little Inverey) was Catholic. Begin the walk along the track from Meikle Inverey which heads southwest, passing several buildings to eventually approach the Ey burn. After a kilometre both the burn and the track fork; take the left branch, which soon crosses the Ey and then zigzags uphill before continuing up the right hand side of the glen.

Down to the left by the burn is an overhanging rock and gorge (now partly collapsed); this sheltered the Colonel's Bed. In the 17th Century a colonel, outlawed for the murder of a Laird, made this his refuge, and was brought food each day by his lover; it requires only a short detour but take care as the rock edges are loose and slippery. Further on are the scant ruins of Auchelie, an abandoned farm. The track then runs closer to the burn once more; on the far side can be seen the Piper's Wood, which has been fenced as an experiment in regeneration. Beyond, the track crosses the burn once more on another bridge, before crossing back after another two and a half kilometres; there is a view of Beinn Iutharn Mhor ahead.

The track ends at Altanour Lodge, the sad, roofless ruin of an old shooting lodge, still sheltered amongst its trees and with beautiful

grassy pastures. From here head across some boggy terrain before striking steeply up to the cairn on the true summit at 1045 metres. Follow the ridge back northeast and then continue down it as it curves back to the east. Further down there is a steep section before the bleak lower moorland is reached once more. Continue northeast, keeping to the height of the land before the streams on either side converge. If needed, there is a bridge over the Alltan Odhar to the west; otherwise it should be crossed here. Not far beyond down the glen is Altanour Lodge. Return back down the long miles of the track (you could have brought a mountain bike



here!) to return to Inverey. This is a longish walk but should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part, please let Barbara Wyatt (07531467180) know by Thursday 12th May.

Forthcoming Events

June 19 th	Lochnagar Black Spout (LHB)
July 17 th	Cairn an Tagairt Mor – the Staic
Aug 14 th	Cairngorm and the Shelter Stone
Sep 18 th	Carn an Righ

Carn an Tuirc, Cairn of Claise, Tolmount and Tom Buidhe

Gordon Spence

Eight of us left Ellon on what promised to be a bright clear day. We picked up Alan M at Aboyne and Brian M at Braemar then continued on towards Glenshee.

Parking just down the hill from the ski centre it was on with the boots and packs before we set off for the first Munro of the day - Carn an Tuirc. It was a long steep pull to the top but we arrived just in time for lunch and a game of "name that peak", as the visibility was superb and we could see half of Scotland laid out before us. After lunch it was on to the next top – Tolmount. We took a slight detour to look into Coire Kander before moving on to the summit of Tolmount. There we took a short break before making our way across to Tom Buidhe and from there across to the last munro of the day, Cairn of Claise. After another short rest we made our way back down to the cars arriving seven hours after we started the walk. Once the boots were changed it was off to the Inver for some well earned refreshment and to reflect on what had been a perfect hill day.

