



ELLON HILLWALKING CLUB

Newsletter – September 2011

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Programme:

Monday 12th September 2011

Trekking in the Land of Fire – Bob Davies
Station Hotel 20:00

Sun 18th September 2011

Carn an Rìgh from Spittal of Glenshee

Focal Pt Alan Murray (01224 865515)

Community Centre Car Park 07:00

Carn an Rìgh (OS Sheet 43)**Mike Taylor**

Carn an Rìgh (Hill of the King) is a remote Mounth hill between Glen Shee and Glen Tilt. According to Drummond (Drummond 1991), there are two possibilities for the identity of the king. An old Latin document records the Muneth (Mounth) being crossed by holy men with relics en route to convert the King of the Picts – perhaps Carn an Rìgh commemorates this king. Another possibility is King Malcolm Canmore who in the 11th century hunted at Braemar and resided at Blair Atholl, passing and re-passing Carn an Rìgh half way between.

Mitchell (Mitchell 1998) records an interesting tale of a freebooter, Ian Mackeracher, or Lonavey (from lonach fiadh - greedy for deer).

He had had his arrow hand cut off for poaching, but taught himself to be an expert one-handed shot. Though partly tolerated by the Earl of Athole who showed him off in marksmanship contest, he was eventually captured and died in Perth prison. There he expressed his despair at his confinement, on seeing a bird fly past from out his prison window:

*'Had I my gun, from Carn an Rìgh's height
I'd break your wing and stop your flight'.*

He told his fellow prisoners that his gun was hidden in a cave high on that mountain. The tale of the gun lived on in local folklore and was found in the 1870s in a cave high on the hill.

The route up the hill can be started at Spittal of Glenshee but 5km can be taken off a long day by driving up the private road to Dalmunzie Hotel where you can park for £2. From here, follow a grassy track below Glenlochsie Farm to the west of the Allt Ghlinn Thaitneach for about 1km to a footbridge across the burn and a good track up Gleann Taitneach which becomes a steep path up Allt Easgaidh to the outflow of Loch nan Uan. Turn west here to pick up the path below Mam nan Cairn then up through areas of quartz scree to the summit. The return is best made by the same route. The total distance for the walk (starting at the hotel) is 22km with an ascent of 800m – probably about 8 hours.

This is a long day but should be suitable for any reasonably fit member of the club. If you are interested in taking part in this outing, please let Alan Murray (01224 865515) know by Thursday 15th.

Drummond 1991: Scottish Hill and Mountain Names, Peter Drummond, SMC

Mitchell 1998: Scotland's Mountains Before the Mountaineers, Ian Mitchell, Luath Press

Trekking in the Land of Fire – Monday 12th Sept

Our evening meetings move back indoors in September with a welcome return from Bob Davies to give us a presentation on his recent trekking experiences in Tierra de Fuego – the Land of Fire. Bob always gives an interesting talk with superb photos – please come along to the Station Hotel on Monday 12th September and make it a good turnout for Bob's talk.

October Bunkhouse W/end, Kinlochewe 28-30 Oct**Mike Taylor**

As the club hasn't visited Torridon for some time, we decided to go to the Kinlochewe Bunkhouse, which has recently been re-decorated, in October

<http://www.kinlochewehotel.co.uk/bunkhouse.html>

The bunks are all in one carpeted bunkroom where covered mattresses, individual lockers, pillows and pillow cases are provided. You are required to bring your own sleeping bag and towels plus a padlock for the locker. The bathroom area has Mira Sport showers, washbasins and toilets and the drying room contains a dehumidifier to dry any wet clothes. There are plenty wonderful mountains to climb in the area. For example: Slioch; Beinn Eighe; Beinn Alligin; Liathach. There are 12 bunks. We have reserved the entire bunkhouse and the cost will be £10 per person per night. If you are interested in taking part in this club weekend please send £20 to Mike Taylor (Loch an Eilein, Newmachar, Aberdeen, AB21 0UQ) by the end of September. Beds will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on receipt of the £20, which is non-refundable

Forthcoming Events

Oct 16th	Culardoch
Oct 29/30th	Kinlochewe Bunkhouse weekend
Nov 20th	Mount Blair and Dubh Craig & Bar Supper
Dec 18th	Craig nan Gabhar

