



## *Viking Hiking* **Glen Girnock & Glen Muick**

**Meet:** at 8am on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008 at Ballater, in the main car park behind the Church. Car sharing is advisable and those requiring transport or offering seats, please contact John Greig. The numbers of walkers attending will determine how many cars will be left at Ballater and how many will continue to the start of the walk at Glen Girnock.

**Directions:** from Aberdeen take the A93 Aberdeen – Braemar road to Ballater. On entering the town continue to the T-junction at Bridge Street and turn right. Carry on to The Square with the Church and turn left into Victoria Street and then immediately right. The car park is on the left, where there are also public toilets.

To Glen Girnock: return to Bridge Street and cross the bridge over the River Dee and turn right onto the South Deeside Road. Continue for about 3 miles to Bridge-end of Girnock where you will see a red telephone box and post box and some limited parking on a grass area on the left (O.S. 325957).

**The Walk:** about 20 miles in length, all on good surfaced estate roads and a short section of public road. The route will follow the entire length of Glen Girnock and join the “Royal Road” linking Balmoral and Birkhall estates. At this T-junction turn left and continue to Glen Muick, joining it at Inchnabobart. At this remote house turn right and continue to Loch Muick and turn left onto the path along the east shore of the loch. At the end turn left onto the road leading to the Spittal of Glenmuick where there is a

Visitor Centre, toilets and picnic area (this is a suggested lunch stop). Retrace your steps passing the Visitor Centre and turn right onto the road leading back across Glen Muick and return to Inchnabobart. (This loop is approximately 5 miles and may be omitted if desired). Continue to the end of Glen Muick with the River Muick on the right, and past Birkhall, also on the right, to the South Deeside Road. Turn right and follow it a short distance and turn left onto a road through a large wood, which leads to the River Dee and a white metal footbridge. The road continues to the A93, and on crossing it, turn right and follow a way-marked footpath to the Bridge of Gairn. Re-cross the A93 and turn left onto the old railway line pathway to Ballater. Return to the main car park where arrangements will be made to utilise the cars left there earlier to take drivers to Glen Gironck for their vehicles. Walkers may wish to finish the day's activities with a bar supper, etc. at one of Ballater's hostelries before heading home.

***What to Wear and What to Take with You:*** warm comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear, hat and gloves. Carry waterproofs, extra jersey, pack lunch, snacks, hot/cold drinks and a plastic sheet to sit on. Consider taking sun cream and insect repellent. Avoid wearing denim jeans as they retain too much moisture when wet. You are advised to keep a change of clothing in your vehicle.

***Queries and Advice:*** contact John 01224321088 or 07717645267 or e-mail [jagreig@btinternet.com](mailto:jagreig@btinternet.com) . Also, please contact John if you intend coming on this outing.

***N.B.*** This walk replaces the Glen Tilt walk arranged for the same date and is offered as a 20-mile training walk for those participating in the 2008 Moon Walk in Edinburgh on 14<sup>th</sup> June. It is available, not only to Moonwalkers, but to **ALL** Friskis & Svettis members, Viking Hikers, and their families, friends and guests. The Glen Tilt walk will be arranged for late August 2008 and details will be available soon.