

Callater, Saturday 4th February 2017

It was dark with the wind blowing heavy squalls as the minibus departed Aberdeen with 9 on board. Stopping to pick up another 2 we were in Braemar just before 9 where the wind had dropped (slightly) and the rain had abated. Anne set off to walk along the Dee to Muir as the rest of us continued to Auchallater where Jim was waiting for us. We stopped briefly at Callater stable for a snack, the bothy is looking great with bunks now installed. Alec left us here for Creag nan Gabhar and we set off again. The snow fell gently as we made our way along Jock's road and as we started the ascent at the end of the glen it was starting to lie. Jim left us here, heading back to his car, so there was now 9 as we climbed towards the plateau. We stopped just short of the top to take on more fuel, a good decision as we were soon in the teeth of the wind once we started off again. Some careful navigation in the blizzard took us to the top of Tolmount. Stopping only long enough to take a few pictures we were soon off, retracing our steps back to Jock's road. There was now much more snow as we made our way back down the glen, but we were below the snowline by the time we reached the stables. Another quick stop before the march back to the bus and the drive to Braemar just in time for coffee and cake at the Bothy where Anne and Alec were waiting patiently for us. Finally the drive back to Aberdeen which we reached about 8. It had been a hard day, but satisfying. Thanks to everyone that came along for your company, its what makes these trips special. PS Hoping that some of your pics will appear here, my camera didn't make it out of my bag.

Here we go:









































