



# Strathearn Rambler

Summer 2015

Issue No. 71

Editor: Irwin Keith



## Chairman's Report

My Australian relatives have been staying with us from Brisbane and remarked on the forty shades of green of our countryside, it's no wonder with all the rain we have had. Where has the Summer gone! Our walks programme as usual has been buoyant, and surprisingly enough apart from one of the hill walks the weather has been kind to us during the days we have been out.

The Glen Tilt 22 mile walk was a resounding success although before setting off I had my doubts whether we would be able to get across the Geldie Burn. Luckily on arrival the burn was lower than when I did the recce. In my opinion, Glen Tilt must be near the top of my most favourite walks in Scotland. Well done to everybody and a special thanks to Gordon Wright for driving the Co-Co bus and forfeiting watching F1. A long day out, but one to be specially remembered. See Charlie's Report in this Newsletter.

Comrie Fortnight is looming up and once again the Comrie Fortnight Committee has asked if we could select two walks for the programme. Both these walks are in this edition of the Newsletter and of course you are very welcome to join us during the Fortnight programme.

Contact with The Duke of Gordon Hotel at Kingussie is ongoing, with just final numbers to be clarified. The bookings have been coming in and at present we have 31 for the weekend away, with all payments to be made by the end of July, so if you have not booked yet, and would like to join us for this well organised annual fun weekend away, please contact our Treasurer Sue Sinclair.

May I remind all of you to put on your calendars the night of Friday 2nd October for the Strathearn Ramblers 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance. The White Church has been booked, Wendy Gudgeon will be doing the catering and Hamish Reid and his band plus caller will entertain us. We shall also put on a bus for our Ramblers in Crieff. We would all like to make this an evening to remember, so put on your "glad rags" and let the party begin! As an added bonus, because the club has a small surplus of funds and is non profit making, the evening will be heavily subsidised by the club.

To conclude, our walks committee have been putting together another set of walks to take us over Christmas and the New Year, our Christmas Stroll and lunch on Sunday the 13th December will be Auchengarrich.

Good rambling and see you all soon.

Ken Heiser

## **Strathearn Ramblers Committee 2015-2016**

|            |                  |              |
|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Chairman   | Ken Heiser       | 670545       |
| Vice-chair | Myra Robertson   | 670166       |
| Treasurer  | Susan Sinclair   | 670654       |
| Secretary  | Andrew Quinn     | 679887       |
| Committee  | Stephanie Blaauw | 679071       |
|            | Val Callan       | 653863       |
|            | Robert Harrison  | 679582       |
|            | Irwin Keith      | 652541       |
|            | David McKeggie   | 652289       |
|            | David McLeod     | 01786 880984 |
|            | Margaret McVicar | 670989       |
|            | Charlie Panton   | 655337       |

### **Booking Forms**

As stated in the last Newsletter there are usually several booking forms within each edition of the Newsletter. Can we please ask you to avoid confusion and disappointment for all concerned and ensure that the correct booking form is enclosed with your monies and that the envelopes are marked clearly and appropriately.

### **20th Anniversary Supper Dance**

As noted in the Newsletter No. 70 to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Strathearn Ramblers there will be a supper dance held in the White Church on 2nd October 2015, 7.00pm for 7.30. The evening will consist of a buffet followed by a dance provided by Hamish Reid and his band plus a dance caller. Transport will be provided for people living in Crieff. As promised the price of tickets will be kept at 1995 prices, a lowly £10 per head. If you know of any former members who no longer walk please tell them of this extravaganza as we would look forward to seeing them.

To book a place for this celebratory dance please complete the booking form at the back of this Newsletter with the appropriate cost of tickets and sent to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie, PH6 2HG. October.

## **September Weekend Away**

There are still places available for the September Weekend Away in Kingussie. If you have not sent your booking form and deposit to Susan Sinclair please do so immediately. The booking form is at the back this newsletter.

The weekend away will be from Friday 11th to Monday 14th September at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie.

The cost will be £180 per person, two people sharing and £215 for a single room on a half board basis. This includes recces and other costs.

To book please complete the booking form including a £25 deposit per person made payable to "Strathearn Ramblers". Send the cheque and booking form to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie, PH6 2HG.

**Please note that the hotel requires an earlier payment than previously thought and the final cost to be paid to Susan by 31st July 2015 at the latest.**

## **Ramblers' BBQ in Myra Robertson's Garden**

**Friday, 14th August 2015**

A reminder that Myra is opening her garden at Catonia Cottage, Nurses Lane, Comrie for the Ramblers' Annual BBQ on 14th August 2015. The charcoal should be at a perfect temperature at 6.00pm. Bring your own food, refreshments and seating. Come and join us for a great evening.

## Glen Tilt Walk – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015

At 5 o'clock on Sunday morning, when all sensible people are still in bed, 17 hardy, or should it be fool-hardy, souls quietly dressed and left home to congregate at Comrie and Crieff car parks to undertake the 22 mile Glen Tilt walk.

Setting off from Crieff everyone was in high spirits, not surprising as our coach is known as CoCo and has a partial number plate which reads LSD! Approximately 2 hours later there was a necessary comfort stop at Braemar; according to Ken the eco loos at Lin of Dee were closed.

Arriving at Lin of Dee we set off in a westerly direction into a stiff wind which necessitated extra layers of clothing. After some 4 miles we reached the White Bridge and a further mile onwards the infamous Geldie



Crossing Gledie Burn

Burn. Thankfully all traversed without any mishaps, and Gordon Wright who had accompanied us to this point to ensure our safe crossing returned to take the CoCo bus down to Blair Atholl. A mile further on at Bynack Lodge we had to cross the Bynack Burn – something that our Chairman Ken forgot to mention. Again everyone crossed safely. Is this a record for the Ramblers – 32 crossings of water without one cry of “oh he’s fallen in the water”?

It was decided to have a late morning break at the Lodge (an NTS building, but a ruin). The sun was shining, which added to everyone’s enjoyment during our break.

The track from this point became single following the Alt Garbh Buidhe down to the Falls of Tarf where lunch was taken. Continuing onwards following the River Tilt, we joined up with a major path heading towards Forest Lodge. During this section of the walk we met a young American coming down off Meall Gharran. He was part of an archaeological team surveying the Battle of Killiecrankie site, which he thought was somehow connected with Culloden, but we informed him that Culloden happened at least 70 years after the Battle of Killiecrankie.

On arriving at Forest Lodge we stopped for afternoon tea, and the majority of the party hunkered down behind a stone wall to avoid the wind which had come up again. We continued on down Glen Tilt to Marble Lodge and onwards to Gilbert’s Bridge where we followed “a short cut” to Blair Atholl, which ultimately brought us out at Kincaigie where Gordon was waiting to greet us all. In normal Rambler’s fashion we retired to the Atholl Arms Hotel for a refreshment before journeying back to Strathearn.

The day was a real success and grateful thanks from all who undertook the walk to both Ken who recied part of the walk, and Gordon Wright who was our relief driver on the day.

As a final thought, Andrew Quinn throughout the day informed us of how many steps he had taken and that the culmination of the walk the sum total was 55,800 – trust this doesn’t put anyone off doing the Glen Tilt walk in the future.

**Charlie Panton**

# Walk Reports

## **Stroll**

**12th April**

## **Braco Castle**

Nineteen members met at Braco Primary School car park on a rather dismal damp morning and were met by our Leader Margaret Birks who together with Ann Rankin and Margaret Shankland, was to look after us.

We set off by way of Braco park and stopped to look at an interesting old packhorse bridge, which has been restored a couple of times. We continued towards the castle on the road which runs along beside the Knaik Water, and had the good fortune to see at least three red squirrels which were quite unafraid of us and also saw a remarkable series of little water falls.

When we got to the castle gates entrance we were given more information, and then walked up the drive. This was most attractive as the daffodils were coming out as were various shrubs. At the front door of the castle we paused to pay our dues before continuing to the walled garden along a grassy path with more daffodils and shrubs, where we stopped to have an early lunch. While we were there the sun came out and it turned into a lovely day, which of course we all enjoyed. After this pause Margaret suggested that we might like a short time to wander round the gardens as we felt fit, which we all did, and I certainly much enjoyed it and was lucky enough to see another friendly squirrel and a hare.

Once we were gathered together again we walked back down the drive - having admired the amazing wood shed, very tidily stacked with a huge amount of logs of different sizes and shapes. We then returned to Braco by the other drive past lots of ewes and lambs stopping off to look at the remarkable ruins of a 19th century mill installed by Pullars of Perth.

It was a happy day, thanks in no short part to the information given us by Margaret Birks. Thanks go to her and Ann and the other Margaret.

**Fiona Fletcher**

## **Hill Walk**

**19th April**

## **Beinn Stacath, Balquhidder**

We were greeted with angry words by a farmer at Ballimore when we parked our cars, and yes, we could see the steam coming from his ears. He insisted it was a private road outside the entrance to his farm, although it's not marked as such on maps. 35 minutes later, having moved our cars further "discussions" with his son-in-law up the road who claimed part of the road was his "driveway", the walk got underway.

The cars had to be driven back to Balquhidder, then one car with the other drivers drove part way back where there was room for just one car.

The advance party started off slowly, so the drivers could catch up. We were only about 10 minutes into the walk and climbing over a deer fence (for which we had permission) when a vehicle approached and a farmer got out – oh dear, another confrontation we thought – but he offered to unlock the gate for us, and even waited for us to walk to the next deer fence so he could unlock that one for us too (and he wasn't even going in our direction). It was so nice after the earlier incident.

At last we appreciated that this was an absolutely superb day for walking in the hills, and the main party started the ascent up towards Beinn Staccath. By the time we stopped for coffee the remainder of the party had caught up to us.

## Hill Walk

19th April

## Beinn Stacath, Balquhidder (continued)



We reached our objective, and after taking in the superb 360 degree views of many of the well-known munros, we had lunch and began our descent following a fence all the way down to Bealach Driseach, then on a forest track to Loch Voil.

Whilst waiting for the party to get together, we were suddenly assailed by another local who took umbrage at some of us admiring his property. (Must be something in the water in this region?) Consequently, we hot-footed it for 2.5 miles along the main track back to Balquhidder where we consoled ourselves with refreshments at the Mhor 84 Hotel. Having recovered our equilibrium we made our way back home.

Apart from the outbursts, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and thanks to David McKeggie, Robert Burns and Charlie Panton the walk leaders.

**Tina Panton**

## Walk

26th April

## Mhor 84 to Callander via Loch Lubnaig

The wonderful CoCo bus driven by Ken Heiser, arrived promptly at the Co-op in Crieff to pick up 11 keen walkers and then went on to Comrie to pick another 4. Needless to say there was lots of chatter on the way to the start of the walk which must have included the driver as we shot past Mhor 84 (formerly Kingshouse) and had to do a quick turn round on the A84 and get back to where we were supposed to start. Val Callan was our very able leader and even more so because she was on her own. We all did our best to support her, and the walk which followed the Rob Roy Way and a new cycle track, was easy to follow.

The weather was everything that April in Scotland had to throw at us – wonderful sunshine, cool air, hailstones and a new smattering of snow on the hills which Ken had noticed hadn't been there when he walked towards us from Callander where he had parked the bus.

Despite it being a very good cycle track (lots of tarmac), we only met a few cyclists. One was a group of cyclists who had come in two vans from a little village near Dunfermline and are called Assisted Cycling Events. This voluntary group had been going for 15 years and the aim is to get people on bikes who wouldn't normally. Have a look at their Facebook page ACE – Assisted Cycling Events. Very inspirational (especially the bikes you can ride on water!)

We managed a lovely lunch stop by the shores of Loch Lubhnaig near the Forestry cabins. Just as we were starting to strip off to sunbathe, the next shower hit us and we quickly packed up and moved on but not before we had eaten most of our lunch. We had a brief stop again at the Falls of Leny which had more water in them than they had last Wednesday when Val and Stephanie had done the recce.

Four and a half hours later we arrived in Callander after our 12 mile walk at a good pace and decided to go back to Mhor84 for a cuppa and a few of us can heartily recommend the amazing meringues and perhaps to share one between two?!

Superb day out and many thanks to our driver Ken and lead walker Val.

**Lesley Wright**

## **Stroll**

**10th May**

## **Stanley to Ballathie**

A very wet Sunday morning saw 6 hardy young ladies (?) meet up in Comrie for today's stroll. The walk leader informed us that the route of the original stroll had been changed slightly, it was felt that after the very wet reccie that the route was a bit boring following a railway line. We would still be starting in Stanley, and follow the River Tay path. We set off mindful that we had to go via Crieff to pick up any strollers, but we were surprised to find that there wasn't anybody waiting for us.

The writer of this report decided to take advantage of the pace of the stroll and took ample photos en route, purely as prompts, so that she didn't forget any details by the time she got home. Another stroller commented that the dark grey clouds may give the photos 'atmosphere', and then another commented that the skies were 'dark and foreboding', gee what a cheery bunch!!!

At Stanley Mills we read that it was free admission day for Mills around Scotland, so being as it was chucking it down, we decided to take advantage of the this generous offer, guess what; Stanley Mills wasn't included in this offer. So after a wet stroll around the exterior of the mill, we thought we would take refuge in the Gate House, (we were the only occupants and a good job as well) and have a coffee break, but then it was decided that as we were in the dry we may as well have lunch. Who had boiled eggs for lunch? PHEW!!!

Post lunch, the rain stopped so we continued on our meander along the River Tay, passing Stanley House, which just happened to have a garden swing hung from a tree, so of course 2 strollers who names will not be divulged, had to have a go! I have photographic evidence!

Our conversation a lot of the time was very female biased, but we had a real blast and a good laugh. The six of us made a pact. ....WHAT HAPPENS IN STANLEY STAYS IN STANLEY! This is purely to protect our readers who may have a delicate constitution.

**Margaret Birks**

## **Hill Walk**

**24th May**

## **Ben Vane, Arrochar**

The walk was reccied 10 days prior by Robert Burns, Dave McLeod and Charlie Panton.

On the Sunday of the walk Robert had visitors and was unable to join the group which consisted of the remaining afore-mentioned leaders and Tony Harris who had come up from Oxford. We decided as Tony had made the effort to be with us the 3 of us set off from Comrie at 8.30.

We arrived at Inveruglas at 9.30 and after a reasonably long walk in we were faced with a stiff climb up the recognised route to the summit of Ben Vane. The weather wasn't great – a mixture of rain and strong wind, but some 2.5 hours after setting out we achieved our goal.

We dropped down to a large buttress where we sheltered from the elements whilst having lunch. Then we headed off in a westerly direction for approximately one mile before descending to the path which runs along the Alt Coiregrogain and took us back to where we had started the climb.

We walked back out to Inveruglas but being the Bank Holiday weekend the small cafe there and also the Drovers' Inn a few miles up the road were packed with day trippers. So we decided just to head back to Comrie where we dropped David off and then back to Crieff.

Very disappointing turnout for a challenging but not dangerous hill walk.

**Charlie Panton**

## **Stroll & Walk**

**31st May**

## **Rocks of Solitude**

Fourteen brave soles set off from Comrie and Crieff on a wet and overcast morning heading for Edzell, where the leaders of the Laurencekirk over 50's walking group were waiting, in the rain.

We divided into two groups, the walkers heading for the North Esk, we walked along a lovely path following the river to the Gannochy Bridge which we crossed and went through the famous blue door, gradually winding our way through mature beach trees to the salmon leap and rocks of solitude, taking time out to enjoy the beauty of our surroundings. We had lunch at a rather nice folly, heading off again, we passed a small lochan, which had been a fishing loch at one time, from there we made for the Glen Esk road, back down to the Gannochy Bridge and along the river again. The eagle eyed fishermen among us noticed between 30 and 40 dead salmon in the river, on returning home Dan informed SEPA, and seemingly it was a fungal problem.

The strollers had a very informative walk round Edzell with Ian Bell, finding a coffee shop on route. We all met back at the bus and made our way to Denstrath, where my sister Christian and her band of helpers were waiting to give us a beautiful afternoon tea. She intended having it in her garden, but it was too cold, so we were in the steading, where everyone could enjoy the country smells and inspect the cattle.

Andrew even provided seating, made from pallets, covered in rugs.

Ken thanked everyone for a great day.

**Margaret McVicar**

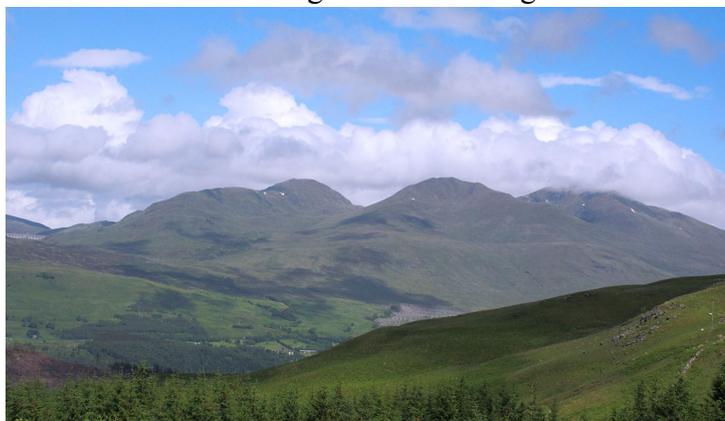
## **Walk**

**28th June**

## **Killin to St Fillans via Loch Breacloch**

Our leader's email informing us the walk was a strenuous 13 miles put the frighteners on me, but I decided it had to be done because I was curious about what lay between Killin and St Fillans.

Sixteen eager beavers set out on the south side of Killin towards Auchmore and before long came across an impressive stone circle approximately 500m from Kinnell House. Following the track onto the Ardeonaig road we turned right and continued to the Achmore Burn then headed up the tarmac track through a wooded area. This was the start of the strenuous "pull out of Killin to Loch Breacloch". It was hot work and the midges were waiting for us but views across Loch Tay, the Ben Lawers range and



Ben Lawers Range 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Tarmachan Ridge were worth any midge discomfort. Our coffee break allowed time to cover ourselves in repellent. After that we reached cooler air which helped with the continuous ascent to Loch Breacloch Hydro-electric scheme and on to the highest point where we found a nice spot for lunch. Enjoying the much needed rest and sunshine, we observed views towards Glen Beich and various groups of Duke of Edinburgh Award students trekking through the hills.

The weather broke as we continued into Glen Beich, freezing wind and driving rain, a complete contrast for a mile or so. We were wind battered and soaked when we met with a large walking group heading for Killin and stopped to exchange information about the route. Reaching the Beich Burn, which was peaty brown flowing deep and fast, the decision was made to follow it down stream and find a suitable crossing. Rising to the challenge and with the assistance of Ken, Charlie and Ian, who ended up even more drenched for their trouble, we all jump across safely!

**Walk                    28th June                    Killin to St Fillans via Loch Breaclaich (cont'd)**

Heading for the bealach and into Glen Tarken was pure joy as views of Loch Earn, Ben Vorlich and the local hills of Comrie unfolded before us and brought with it a contented feeling of 'going home'. We passed Jerusalem and the remains of what was once a community on the hill overlooking Loch Earn, then along a delightful tree lined path high above the old railway line which led us down into St Fillans. Such walks are inspiring, stirring many emotions and contentment in the safety of very dear and caring friends.

Many thanks to our three leaders, Ken, Val and Robert and thanks also to Felicity who volunteered to drive the CoCo bus at short notice.

**Susan Sinclair**

## Future Walks

**12th July      Walk                      Gylen Castle, Isle of Kerrera                      7miles**  
**Stroll                      Hutcheson's Monument, Isle of Kerrera      5.5 miles**

The crossing takes just five minutes from a pier with parking about 3.5 kilometres south of Oban. The ferry fare is £4.50 return. **Please have the exact money for the ferry.** Also, note that the bus is unable to park at the pier and there is a walk of about a mile to the ferry.

Kerrera is an ever changing landscape from fertile low pastures where the farming tradition goes back hundreds of years, to bog and heath land, small coastal bays and beaches with cliffs and caves all of which are home to a rich tapestry of flowers and wildlife. Wild goats, buzzards and otters can be seen - Gannets dive off the south and west of the island and seals, porpoises and minke whales are often spotted offshore. Ravens, stone and whinchats and skylarks are resident on the island with sea and golden eagles sometimes visiting the island. Although this an earlier start than normal is well worth making a full day on the island. The bus will return from Oban at 17.00. The booking form for the bus is as the back of the newsletter.

**Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 08.00 Bus departs Comrie School car park 08.15**

**Please note the bus departure times.**

**Cost of Bus: £12.00**

**Stroll Leaders: M Shankland (670114), A Kay**

**Walk Leaders: S Sinclair (670654), S Blaauw**

**19th July      Hill Walk      Buachaille Etive Beag      958m/3143ft      6 miles**

Buachaille Etive Beag forms a ridge about 3 km in length that runs in a southwest–northeast direction. It has two peaks of Munro status: Stob Dubh and Stob Coire Raineach. The latter became a Munro in the 1997. A good stretching walk beginning by a the Right of Way (signposted) through the Lairig Eilde then following the path up to the bealach. From here Stob Coire Raineach lies about 0.5 km to the northeast, whilst Stob Dubh is about 2 km to the southwest. Park on the lay-by by the beehive cairn on the A82.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 07.45 Comrie School car park 08.00 Meet at Beehive Cairn Car Park on A82 09.20am**

**Pay Drivers £4.50**

**Leaders: D McKeggie (652289), F Martin**

**26th July Walk Bishop Hill from Scotlandwell 9 miles**

This is a walk from Felicity's "Experience Big Tree County Vol 2". It is a stretching walk over the mixed terrain reaching up to the top of Bishop Hill which is to the east of Loch Leven. From this point there are good views of the surrounding area. From Bishop Hill the route circles back to Scotlandwell via Portmoak Moss and the ancient well. There are limited parking areas within Scotlandwell but the best place is by the Well Country Inn which is on the left as you enter Scotlandwell from Kinnesswood on the A911.

**Depart Comrie School car park 09.00 Crieff Coop car park 09.15. Meet as directed above at 10.10**

**Pay driver: £4.50**

**Leaders: I Keith (652541), V Callan, A Morrison**

**2nd August Walk Crieff to Auchingarrich via Cultybraggan 9 miles**

**The Strathearn Ramblers Chairman's Walk for The Comrie Fortnight**

The route takes us on a gradual ascent from the Crieff Visitor centre car park -- views north to Glen Turret and Ben Chonzie. We make our way to the summit of Knock Mary where we get good views to the south including Loch of Balloch and Drummond Castle.

The track continues and weaves along good forestry paths passing close to the Television Mast at Torlum. The extensive views of the Strath and Sir David Baird's Monument can be viewed to the north. The way takes us to the south of Barr Dubh before we start descending to the Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre where we can stop for refreshments or ice creams if required.

After Auchingarrich it is all downhill to Comrie, depending on weather, we can either go via Bogton Braes or Drumachork, Cultybraggan and along the Water of Ruchill back to Comrie.

Please bring a packed lunch, snacks and drinks (non alcoholic). The walk is strictly limited to 30 participants and the Co Co Bus only takes 16 passengers, so first come first served. Cars will be required if this number is exceeded, and cars will be left at the Crieff Visitor Centre. There is a good public transport bus to collect the car later.

Names must be given to the Booking Office by 4pm Saturday 1st August. Good stout footwear, fleece and waterproofs should be worn or taken with you. For further information please contact Ken Heiser on 01764 670545.

Children over 8 and under 16 years are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will be responsible for the child throughout the duration of the walk. Anyone taking part on this walk does so at their own risk and the "Strathearn Ramblers" and "Comrie Fortnight Association" will not be liable for any injury. Sorry no dogs please.

**Depart Comrie School car park 09.00.**

**Leaders: Ken Heiser (670545)**

**4th August          Stroll          Comrie and Comrie Croft Circular          5 miles**

**The Strathearn Ramblers Vice-Chairman's Walk for The Comrie Fortnight**

The Vice Chairman of the Strathearn Ramblers, Myra Robertson, invites you to accompany her on a delightful fairly easy stroll starting from the School car park in Comrie to Comrie Croft, the approximate distance is 5 miles. The route takes us through Laggan Wood with two short uphill walks to the north side of the Strath above Fordie and Lawers estate houses. On the stroll we pass a beautiful waterfall before stopping for refreshments at Comrie Croft. Comrie Croft offers tea, coffee and delightful snacks at their Croft Cafe.

After this we make our way to the south crossing the main A85 and making our way down to the old disused railway line before turning west to pass south of the Carse of Lennoch, Tomperran and back to Comrie. Although on good tracks, it can be muddy in places so we would suggest good stout footwear, also with the vagaries of the Scottish Climate we would suggest bringing waterproofs, if you would prefer a picnic lunch rather than participating in refreshments at Comrie Croft please bring your own.

Names must be given to the Booking Office by 4pm Monday 3rd August. For further information please contact Myra Robertson on 01764 670166.

Children over 8 and under 16 years are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will be responsible for the child throughout the duration of the walk. Anyone taking part on this walk do so at their own risk and the "Strathearn Ramblers" and "Comrie Fortnight Association" will not be liable for any injury or accident.

**Depart Comrie School car park 10:00**

**Leaders Myra Robertson (670166), Margaret McVicar, Anne Kay**

**9th August          Stroll          Pitlochry Circuit, Edradour, Moulin, Dam          6 miles**

A stroll for aficionados of food and drink as this walk passes two distilleries and a brewery and finishes up in the tearoom capital of Perthshire. Starting at the Black Spout car park the path goes through the wildlife-rich oakwood of Black Spout wood, across pasture fields, past a willow-fringed duck pond and along the shores of Loch Faskally and the River Tummel. As this stroll is close to the town there will be easy access for refreshments after the stroll.

Depart Comrie School car park 10.00, Meet Crieff Coop car park 10.15 Meet Black Spout car park 11.15

**Pay Drivers £5**

**Leaders: Margaret McVicar (670989) Myra Robertson, Pat Keith**

**Directions to the Black Spout car park.** Coming into Pitlochry from the south the Royal Mail Delivery and Collection office is on the left in Aldour Industrial Estate, which is signposted at the road entrance, just after this you pass over a bridge crossing a burn turn first left immediately after this and immediately before the Silverhowe Bed & Breakfast. You then go under a railway bridge and turn right into the woodland car park.

**23rd August Hill Walk Glas Tulaichean 1051m/3448ft 12 miles**

There is free parking at the drive end of Dalmunzie Castle Hotel, Spittal of Glenshee. After a 2K walk up the drive you ascent on a well marked path which continues onto the dome of Glas Tulaichean. Leaving the main track there is a trig point marking the Munro summit. On a clear day the views of the surrounding hills are magnificent.

**Depart Comrie School car park 08.00 Crieff Coop car park 08.15.**

Meet Dalmunzie Castle, Spittal of Glenshee 10.00 **Pay drivers £6**

**Leaders: Charlie Panton (655337), Andrew Quinn, Robert Burns**

**30th August Walk Glen Sherup Hill above Glen Devon 9.5 miles**

This is a high level walk with spectacular views of Highland munros and Pentland Hills. Starting off on the reservoir trail, then branching off to the summit of Innerdownie and Tarmangie hills to the top of Glen Sherup, joining a quad bike track back down, passing Glensherup reservoir and back to the car park. Take the A823 through Glen Devon, Glen Sherup forest car park is 1.5 miles northwest of Glendevon village.

**Depart Comrie School car park 09.00 Crieff Coop car park 09.15. Meet Glen Sherup car park 9.45.**

**Pay drivers £3**

**Leaders: Stephanie Blaauw (679071), Margaret McVicar, Myra Robertson**

**11th—14th September Weekend Away Kingussie**

**13th September Stroll Comrie Mystery Stroll 5 miles**

For those unable to go to Kingussie Anne Kay will lead a stroll in and about Comrie. As in previous years this stroll will be punctuated by chat and laughter in no small measure around parts of Comrie which may be new to you.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 09.45 meet Comrie School car park 10.00**

**Leaders: Anne Kay (670898), Irwin Keith**

**20th September Hill Walk Beinn Dubhchaig from Dalrigh 978m/3209ft 10 miles**

The car park is off the A82 road by taking the turning for Dalrigh; keep left after taking the turn and the car park is on the left. The walk is on track initially however further into the climb the ground can become very boggy especially through the Caledonian Forest section. Past the wood following a path pass several waterfall before reaching the summit. Please wear suitable footwear as this could be a boggy ascent.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 08.45. Comrie School car park 09.00 Meet Dalrigh car park (grid ref NN343291) 09.45**

**Pay drivers £3**

**Leaders: David McKeggie (652289), Andrew Quinn, Charlie Panton**

**27th September      Walk      Balquhidder to Killin      11.5 miles**

This part of the Ring of Breadalbane. The at Rob Roy MacGregor's grave in Balquhidder and rises through Kirkton Glen with a steep ascent up to a pass at Lochan an Eireannaich. The ascent is rewarded with some wonderful views of wild scenery and having descended into Glen Dochart the last third of the walk is fairly level along a disused railway line. The walk finishes in Killin at the burial ground in Killin of Clan MacNab.

**Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 08.45 and Comrie School car park 09.00 Cost of Bus £6**

**Leaders: Irwin Keith (652541), Ken Heiser, Margaret Birks**

**11th October      Stroll      Moncrieff Hill Perth      5.5 miles**

Follow the A912 road out of Perth (the Edinburgh Road, the road on which the prison and Tesco Superstore sits) and turn for Rhynd immediately before the M90 slip road. The car park is 1 mile on the right. This is a pleasant woodland walk featuring two Iron age hill forts and provides excellent views between the River Tay and Earn. There are a couple of sharp sections on this stroll.

**Depart Comrie School car park 10.00 Crieff Coop car park 10.15 Meet Rhynd car park 10.55**

**Pay drivers £3**

**Leaders: Myra Robertson (670166), Margaret Shankland, Robert Harrison**

**18th October      Hill Walk      Meall An t-Seallaidh and Creag Mac Ranaich  
852m/2795ft and 809M/2654ft      13 miles**

Parking at Locheearnhead car park. This pair of Corbetts are hidden and out of sight from most of the major routes through the glens. Creag Mac Ranaich is a hill of character with craggy buttresses on its upper slopes, whilst the higher Meall an t-Seallaidh takes the form of a long ridge. Together they make an enjoyable round from Locheearnhead. The walk follows a good track up to the bealach between then peaks thereafter it is rougher and pathless to the summits.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 08.45. Comrie School car park 09.00 Meet Locheearnhead car park 09.25**

**Pay drivers £1**

**Leaders: Robert Burns (670408), Dave McKeggie, Felicity Martin**

**25th October      Walk      Loch Venacher Circuit      12 miles**

Start from the Glen Finglas (also signed Lendrick Hill) car park just off the A821 east of Brig O'Turk and after Lendrick Lodge. Please note there are toilets here. Then have a walk around beautiful Loch Venachar on paths, cycle tracks and very minor roads. There are good views of the loch and surrounding countryside most of the way with good opportunities of a good cup of tea from the various tearooms near the end of the walk.

**Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 08.45 and Comrie School car park 09.00 Cost of Bus £6**

**Leaders: Val Callan (652541), Ken Heiser, Susan Sinclair**

**8th November                      Stroll    River Almond Circuit                      6 miles**

Meet at Pitcairngreen Village Hall. An easy stroll around the River Almond in an area seldom walked but has plenty of local interest. The terrain is by paths and tracks although there is a section of road walking and a small section on rougher ground. The walk will pass Berthapark which is an area that may become another housing development for Perth in the near future so perhaps it's a last chance to see the area before it becomes an urban sprawl.

**Depart Comrie School car park 10.00    Crieff Coop car park 10.15    Meet Pitcairngreen 10.45**

**Pay drivers £2.50**

**Leaders: Myra Robertson (670166), Anne Kay, Felicity Martin**

## A visit to Carleton Place, Ontario

11-12 June 2015

After a 200 plus mile drive south through Algonquin national park and driving down the Mississippi River, the Canadian one, we rolled into Carleton Place (population approximately 10,000). The town was named after Carlton Place in Glasgow. As we had kept off the freeways the approach reminded you of a typical Ontarian town built on a mixture of farming and industry with buildings modern and Victorian although most of the industry is now gone along with the railway. The Canadians are a friendly people, very like the Scots, and driving along the main thoroughfare, Bridge Street, with its collection of shops you could see it was a welcoming place. Arriving at the River Breeze Bed and Breakfast we were not greeted by the owner Malik but by handyman Joe and gardener Kate with a couple of “cold ones” to refresh us. The Bed and Breakfast was in a lovely setting as it looks onto open parkland which edges the Mississippi. After dumping our bags we walked back into the downtown area, all of five minutes, along by the river where children were swimming and playing, a bit like the Linn a’ Chullaich on a



summers day. As we had been travelling all day, with several photo opportunity stops, we were not hungry and our hosts took us for a beer then a quick bite. When leaving the pub a cyclist with small infant on a rear seat cycled past and acknowledged Kate who informed us that the person on the bike was the mayor, Louis Antonakos. Being a curious, but a shy sort of person I strolled after him and innocuously asked him about the twinning arrangement with Comrie. Louis was thrilled (see picture on left) to hear that we had chosen his town because we lived near Comrie and effusively asked us to visit him in the town hall the next day.

Not to disappoint we visited the town hall the next morning where we were enthusiastically welcomed and we were shown the council chambers and the twinning room that has all the documents and memorabilia relating to Comrie’s twinning arrangement. When they heard that we were in the Ramblers they asked specifically for George Carson which was not surprising and unfortunately we had to tell them of his passing. Also, they were interested to hear about Jimmy Stewart.

The town clerk Duncan Rogers commented on the kindness shown to him by all the people of Comrie when he visited the village a few years ago.

I would highly recommend a visit to Carleton Place although a quiet small town in Ontario it is proud of its twinning with Comrie and its Scottish connections. Also, it has some nice parkland and trails to explore along with interesting shops and restaurants. Slackoni’s Italian Restaurant with a balcony onto the river Mississippi is highly recommended. We found the people were open with a generous spirit and loved to talk to us especially when they knew we were residents of Scotland.

Finally, Carleton Place is in easy travelling distance of Ottawa, the country’s capital, which is well worth a visit.

**Irwin & Pat Keith**

**BOOKING FORM FOR THE STRATHEARN RAMBLERS AWAY WEEKEND AT  
DUKE OF GORDON HOTEL, KINGUSSIE ON 11TH, 12th, 13th SEPTEMBER  
2015**

Name(s) .....

Please reserve ..... Double room

..... Twin room

..... Single room

At the Duke of Gordon Hotel for the 11th, 12th, and 13th September 2015.

I/We enclose a cheque for £ ..... at £25 per head as a non-refundable deposit. The cheques to be made payable to "Strathearn Ramblers".

I am able to offer a lift to the hotel to ..... other members.

I am unable to offer a lift.

I require a lift.

Special dietary requirements .....

Other needs .....

**The form and deposit to be passed to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie, PH6 2HG immediately. The balance to be paid by 31st July 2015.**

**Bus Booking Form**

**27th September**

**Walk**

**Balquhiddier to Killin**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up Ramblers at Crieff Coop car park at 08.45 and at Comrie School car park 09.00. At the end of the walk the bus will take walkers from Killin back to Comrie and Crieff.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £6 per person.

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Balquhiddier to Killin" to the Transport Secretary:

Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Wednesday 23rd September 2015.**

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Tick the box if you wish to be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 08.45

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Comrie School car park at 09.00

Names of passengers .....

**BOOKING FORM FOR THE 20th ANNIVERSARY SUPPER DANCE**

**On FRIDAY, 2nd OCTOBER 2015 in the WHITE CHURCH COMRIE**

Please may I/we have.....tickets for the 20th Anniversary Supper Dance at the White Church Comrie on Friday, 2nd October 2015, 19.00 for 1930.

Name(s) .....

Name(s) .....

Name(s) .....

Name(s) .....

I/We enclose a cheque for £ ..... at £10 per head. The cheques to be made payable to “Strathearn Ramblers”.

**I/We wish to take advantage of the bus from Crieff.** Please reserve .....spaces.

Name(s) for bus transport from Crieff.....

Name(s) .....

Name(s) .....

**Special dietary requirements**

Names and requirements.....

Names and requirements.....

Names and requirements.....

**The form and monies to be passed to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie, PH6 2HG by Monday, 21st September 2015**

The Strathearn Rambler is the official newsletter of the Strathearn Ramblers which is a Comrie based organisation with no affiliation or connection to the Ramblers Association or any other walking organisation.

The editor would welcome comments from fellow members on suggestions and improvements to the Strathearn Rambler.

Editor: Irwin Keith  
St John's  
7 Strathearn Terrace  
Crieff PH7 3DT

Email: [i.keith@btinternet.com](mailto:i.keith@btinternet.com)