



# Strathearn Rambler

Autumn 2014

Issue No. 69

Editor: Irwin Keith



## Chairman's Report

The trees have almost shed their leaves for another year as Christmas looms. I am positive the years get shorter the older we get. Our Ramblers year has been a good year weather wise, and it has been a colourful Autumn. Perthshire has once again shown its colours.



Our Ramblers weekend away at Blair Atholl was blessed with warm autumn sunshine and the Blair Atholl Arms Hotel suited us well for the weekend. All the walks seem to have been enjoyed by everyone, especially the Saturday walks. You would be forgiven if you did the walk in shorts it was so warm. We are so fortunate to have so much talent in the Ramblers and we were all treated to an evening of hilarity from our wonderful thespians topped off with a demonstration of Morris Dancing by Dave McKeggie. Some of us even made fools of ourselves after Dave asked us to join him. Not so easy as it looks!

I am rattling on. Many thanks to all our walk leaders who devoted so much of their time to make the weekend a success and finally not forgetting Irwin and Pat for their carefully thought out Quiz on Sunday night.

Our walks sub committee have already sorted out some interesting walks and strolls which we hope you will enjoy and will take us up to Easter.

Our Christmas Stroll this year is a little different, with a sizzling Hog roast by Alastair Gourlay at the Comrie Croft. Again all the usual fun on the way. A festive attire is encouraged and a welcome to all Father Christmas outfits, snowmen and elves. Our Christmas Lunch would not be the same if it were not followed by your years best photographs of walks arranged by Robert Harrison. I should have reminded you in the Summer Newsletter, but it's not too late to send in your best photographs from our walks to Robert.

As the year closes, I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a healthy happy New Year.

Ken Heiser

## **Strathearn Ramblers Committee**

Chairman	Ken Heiser	670545
Vice-chair	Felicity Martin	670987
Treasurer	Susan Sinclair	670654
Secretary	Andrew Quinn	679887
Committee	Margaret Birks	07977865434
	Stephanie Blaauw	679071
	Robert Harrison	670736
	Irwin Keith	652541
	David McKeggie	652289
	Margaret McVicar	670989
	Charlie Panton	655337
	Myra Robertson	670166

## **Christmas Stroll and Lunch 14th December 2014 at Comrie Croft**

The Stroll starts at **10.00** from Comrie School car park and lunch will be at 12.30 for 13.00.

Cost of Lunch £12

Following the lunch there will be a slide show by Robert Harrison.

Please complete the form at the end of this Newsletter to book your place.

**PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF THE STROLL IS 10.00am**

## **Strathearn Ramblers AGM**

The Annual General Meeting of the Strathearn Ramblers will be held in the Comrie Golf Clubhouse on Wednesday, 18th March 2015 at 19.30.

Every member has something to contribute to the Ramblers. If you wish to serve on the committee or have skills which would benefit the club in any way please do not hesitate to put yourself forward or speak to any member of the current committee.

## **7 Ramblers and a dog through the Lairig Ghru**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August a few of the Strathearn Ramblers journeyed up to Boat of Garten to walk through the Lairig Ghru , a 19 mile long walk through the Cairngorms. It turned out a few miles longer than this as on Monday there was the news that the Derry Bridge, a crossing over one of the larger burns, had been washed away by the tail end of hurricane Bertha! The alternative route was along the Dee as far as the White Bridge. This proved to be fine by the Thursday when we set out and by then the water levels were nearly back to normal and the ground surprisingly dry. The bonus was that we had some spectacular waterfalls cascading down the mountains around us, and also luckily the path was mostly above water. We had several acrobatic burn crossings to navigate, all of which were completed successfully, except one near the beginning of the walk when yours truly found herself tipped into the shin-deep water (very elegantly, I was assured) and sitting perched on the offending rock and wedged against the bank! Sadly this wasn't the end of the mishap; and in a rescue attempt the rock tipped again with a further dunking up to the waist this time! No harm done though after a change of clothes and emptying of boots the walk continued.

Sadly these weren't the only setbacks, as one member suffered a bad and long-lasting case of leg cramps from around the halfway mark on, and this meant a significantly slower pace than we had been expecting to achieve. Putting these misadventures aside, we all very much enjoyed the trip and were extremely lucky with the weather which was very good for highland trekking, warm but with a cooling breeze to keep away any midges and with the mountain tops clear of cloud a lot of the time. We had one heavy shower as we were descending from the boulder field, but otherwise only an occasional smirr! It was a delight to see the heather in bloom in the Rothiemurchas pine forest as we neared the end of the walk and there was general agreement that it was a fine time of year to be doing such a walk. There was also talk of doing a similar expedition again as there are lots of lovely through walks in the Cairngorms and good varied accommodation.

Fraoch Lodge, where we stayed, provided an informal family atmosphere, with basic hostel accommodation along with meals. They transported us both to the start of the walk at the Linn of Dee and collected our weary selves at the end near Aviemore.

Well done to everyone , and particular thanks to David and Felicity for their navigating skills.

If any other Strathearn Ramblers are tempted by this kind of expedition in the future, read your newsletter for details of any trip that is being planned!

**Stephanie Blaauw**

## **Weekend Away 12th to 15th September Blair Atholl**

The weekend in Blair Atholl was a great success enhanced by good weather throughout the period. The strolls, walks and hill walks were well received however the heat on Saturday made the going quite strenuous which had a knock-on effect by Sunday. The Friday stroll was a good icebreaker visiting the follies and monuments of the area with many escape points allowing the company to pace themselves for the weekend ahead. The Saturday stroll through the woods of Glen Tilt turned out to be quite exertive due to the weather conditions. The hill walk led by Dochie and Dave was a new summit for the club, Meall Chuaich, and was deemed a great success. The walk, on the far side of the A9 reaching Loch Bhac and turning back towards Glen Finglas then back to base over the hills to the north of Blair Atholl was excellently led by Felicity. The walk finished off outside Ken's campervan/mobile home/road blocker (delete as appropriate) where drinks and nibbles were generously served to strollers and hill walkers alike. Those who missed out on this impromptu diversion were invited to the bridal suite for prandial drinks.

Saturday evening witnessed one of the best social evenings experienced by the ramblers on their weekend away. Strathearn Ramblers certainly have talent in shedloads. The evening started with Margaret McVicar's cappella singing group followed by performer "par excellence" Elspeth who acted as if aged and related, in verse, the joys of being old. Felicity then gave a spirited rendition of George Carson's Nae Breeks. When we thought it could not get any better Dave McKeggie raised the standard by introducing us to Morris Dancing; you must be extremely fit to be able to dance Cotswold Morris. With some encouragement the men were invited to "perform" with Dave in his last demonstration dance. Strictly here we come! To bring some sanity to the proceedings Irene and Pat sang an impromptu duet, their voices toning beautifully. Getting us into the Christmas mood a contingent from the Crieff Drama Group gave us an insight to their seasonal pantomime Cinderella. This resulted in much laughter and showed our local acting talents to the full. A special mention must go to Kate Beauchamp for her portrayal of Cinderella, unique in the annals of that well loved character. Andrew Thompson finished off the evening with a bothy ballad about the best farmer in Aberdeenshire and beyond. A huge thanks must go to all the participants for making such a great evening.

The weather on Sunday was warm but with low cloud the views. The stroll took us to a forest walk by Loch Rannoch, a pleasant walk with various views over the loch before finishing with coffee and cake in the tearoom in Kinloch Rannoch, highly recommended. The walk around Loch Errochty was again a first for the Ramblers. It was mainly on tracks with some rough walking and was quite tricky in places, it was not an easy walk but enjoyable all the same. The hill walk on Sunday was a Geal Charn A'Mharconaich Circular which allowed the ramblers to conquer the two northerly summits of the set of four Munros on the west side of the Drumochter Pass. With the low cloud the expected great views across the Cairngorms were slightly disappointing. Notwithstanding that slight drawback all the walkers thoroughly enjoyed their day.

Although quite tired after the weekend exertions many ramblers did participate in the Sunday quiz. By now the editor must learn that his left field thinking should not be imposed on his normal level headed fellow ramblers.

We must thank the hotel for their food and hospitality which was excellent with our needs being well catered for.

Finally a big thank you goes to Ken for organising the venue and ensuring that everything went as smoothly as possible. The weekend was a great success.

**Irwin Keith**

## Walk Reports

### **Hill Walk 17<sup>th</sup> August Sgiath Chuil**

Five keen ramblers set off from Comrie on a damp, breezy morning. We joined up with Duncan Macdonald at Kenknock Farm in Glen Lochy, now 5 guys and one Val (Hadden not Callan). The weather was now as forecast, wet and quite windy with very strong gusts to be expected higher up.

The first part of the route was up a Hydro Board track to a large pipe intake. From there we set up and across open rough moorland heading towards the main north ridge. Two deer appeared just ahead surprised to see anyone else out on such a morning. These were the only wild life we saw that day.

On starting up the north ridge the wind greatly increased in strength but fortunately it was coming from just behind us, an aid to walking uphill. We briefly stopped at the summit in very gusty conditions and got a fleeting view down into Glen Dochart and the A85 before the cloud descended again. With lunch in mind we headed down eastwards out of the wind into a large natural bowl.

The return route took us across open moorland following a burn in gradually improving conditions. We stopped near the same intake of a large surface pipe which carries water across Glen Lochy towards Glen Lyon reservoir. Duncan educated us about the extensive network of pipes and tunnels which gather water and direct it to Loch Lyon and then to several power stations.

Thanks to our leaders Dave, Dave and Duncan and to Charlie who took part in the recce for a good walk enjoyed by all.

**Robert Burns**

### **Walk 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 North Third Reservoir & Lewis Hill**

On a warm, sunny morning twenty-one ramblers met at the Bannockburn Heritage Centre, Glasgow Road, Stirling. We set off towards the North Third Trout Fishery and followed the path north-west, close to the Bannock Burn, to reach the north end of Sauchie Craig. A well-marked, undulating path to the south led us towards the reservoir. We crossed the dam and continued down the west side of the reservoir to reach the southern end of Lewis Hill. The dam was originally built as an earth embankment in 1911 by Grangemouth Town Council to supply water to that town.

The walk over Lewis Hill took us along one of the finest cliff top paths in Central Scotland. We had a spectacular view of the reservoir below, and the excellent weather enabled us to see mountains to the north, including Ben Ledi and Ben Vorlich.

On returning to the Heritage Centre we dispersed in groups in various directions to seek ice cream, coffee, beer or chips. Thanks to the leaders for arranging and leading this outstanding walk, and a special thanks to Margaret for her informative commentary throughout the walk.

**David Sloan**

## **Stroll 14<sup>th</sup> September Muthill to Crieff**

On bright and breezy Sunday morning ready to undertake the stroll Christine arrived at the Co-op at 10.15 am. Hey what's this I am five minutes early and there is nobody here? Have I got it that wrong I am sure it was at 10.20 we had to be here? Self doubt crept in; it was a while since I had read the newsletter. Made note to oneself: need to read these emails more often! To make matters worse I suddenly realised that I did not have one mobile number of the leaders on my mobile phone! What was I going to do I pondered? Just at that precise moment a voice from across the street called Christine are you coming? Ah, good a familiar voice: Susan Sinclair. She explained some people might be waiting at Stuart Crystal since we were taking the bus from there. The bus? Second note to oneself: must definitely read them the day before I go on these walks!



We arrived at Stuart Crystal far too early as it turned out since the bus was not till 11.00 o'clock. We thought it might only be the four of us (Susan, Anne Kay, Walter and me) when four more turned up and we got on the Muthill bus where two more joined us. So a grand total of 10 people got off at Muthill and took the little lane from behind the school and started our picturesque walk. Anne Kay took us via charming little cottages and the local Church towards the road to the woods. After a few hundred yards we went in the woods to get off the road and we had quite a variety of flora and fauna. In fact I am sure I heard somebody

muttering it look a bit like Jurassic Park. Norma even managed to get a beautiful specimen of a chanterelle mushroom. We got back on the road and took the path towards Crieff, we followed the railway line and had our lunch near the river where Helen decided a piece of wood would do very nicely as a chair only she had to roll it towards us from quite a distance. She was told if you do not hurry up we will have finished our lunch!

We had a lovely walk with the weather staying dry for us and many a belly was filled with the brambles from along the hedgerow! We finished with a well deserved cup of tea! Thanks to Anne and Susan for leading.

**Christine Perry**

## **Hill Walk 21<sup>st</sup> September Beinn Ghlas and Ben Lawers**

Eleven walkers arrived at the Ben Lawers Car Park Visitors Centre at 10 am; not the Ben Lawers Hotel as mentioned by a fellow Rambler.

We started the walk at 450m, through the walled information centre complete with a sundial. We crossed the road and continued on a path to reach a gate in the deer fence. On entering the Ben Lawers Nature trail, we followed the path on the west side of the Edramucky Burn. This was a gradual ascent through the fenced Nature Trail which includes bristle sedge which is only found on Ben Lawers.

We then exited through the deer fence to the steepening slopes of Beinn Ghlas and followed the ridge to the summit (1103m). We dropped down the north east ridge to a bealach at 995m and then got our breath back for the steep climb to the summit of Ben Lawers (1214m). Good views from the top but slightly hazy. We then descended back to the bealach for lunch .

The best lunch was salmon and horseradish pate sandwiches but not enough to go round.

We traversed round the northern slopes of Beinn Ghlas to rejoin the Ben Lawers path just above the deer fence. We then returned through the Nature Reserve to the car park. In total a distance of 7.14 miles and time including breaks was 5 hours 15 minutes. A steep walk on some sections but very enjoyable.

A big thanks to Charlie for leading the walk and to Dave for being the tail end Charlie. Congratulations to Richard whose Munro total has now risen to four.

Thanks to Sherpa Ian for helping Damsels in Distress!

## **Carol Buchan**

### **Walk 28<sup>th</sup> September Three Glens and a Railway Station**

Fourteen Ramblers parked their cars at the church car park just outside Lochearnhead and set off in murky rain uphill along the disused railway line above the loch. Views might have been lovely on the very sunny and hot day when Myra, Stephanie and Margaret did the recce, but this Sunday. The walk was fairly straightforward in that most of it was on easy tracks but certainly very varied in both scenery and vegetation.

After a brief uphill climb, we turned almost back on ourselves and went through a gate to follow the path up Glen Kendrum. It was a steady climb and most of the views were of the path! Lunch was pretty much exactly half way on the walk by the Kendrum Burn and if it had still been raining, we would have walked a bit further into the forest to eat. The forest was quite magical and the birdsong very evident.

We soon came to another disused railway line which had been the connection to Killin. As Myra had spent her childhood here in Glen Dubh, we heard a few stories about the freedom they all had as children and the community and school which existed there.

Very soon we could hear the hum of traffic coming up the Glen Ogle road as we started our descent back to Lochearnhead. Julia's snack van was spotted across the road in a car park and it was decided to find out if there was access through the garden of the house by the side of the track. This is however private land so if walkers are desperate for a cuppa, they should walk a bit further on and follow the cycle track across the road and back up to the car park. The cycle track is right by a calm little lochan Larig Cheile.

Before we all got back in the cars, some of us did stretches and yoga positions to alleviate any potential muscle aches after our 14 mile hike (ably demonstrated by the great yoga guru Angie!).

## **Lesley Wright**

### **Stroll - 12th October 2014 Cloan Glen to Auchterarder**

Leader Margaret McVicar led thirteen happy ramblers on this interesting stroll in glorious weather. Our first port of call was to make for Cloan House. The leader wisely deciding to get the road walking and the steep stages over in the forenoon so by lunchtime we were up in the Ochils with magnificent views of the Grampians to the north and the Aberuchill Hills to the west. Heaven is lunching in the hills of Perthshire on a clear day. The rest of the day was spent meandering back down towards Auchterarder with plenty of chat and good friendship. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the day and thanks go to Margaret for her considerate leading of this stroll

## **Anne Kay**

## **Hill Walk - 19th October 2014 Creag Uchdag**

A very wet Sunday morning and 5 brave walkers left Comrie to drive to the car park at Invergeldie. Once there, everyone wrapped up against the elements and set off along the road to what was to become a real "Strathearn Ramble"!

Along the road, through the gate and onwards, but instead of keeping to the road we took off left through rough grass, heather, lovely deep russet coloured bracken and some boggy conditions underfoot. Steady climb up the hill – still raining - we came to what had obviously been a settlement in days gone by – and continued up. Over to our right we could see Lednock Dam which provides water storage for St Fillans Power Station. Even in this weather the scenery still took your breath away, the autumn colours lending to the views. Rain eased a bit, but not for long !! However, we were rewarded on several occasions by the sight of deer – plenty of them. It doesn't matter how often you see these creatures you've just got to stand and admire them (some of them seemed to be having a good look at us as well – probably wondering why on earth we were there !)

We then reached Spout (Sput) Rollo, and boy, was it "spouting" that day. Carried on up from there through the rough grass and heather back on to the track, on a bit further where we stopped and decided not to continue to Creag Uchdag because of the conditions but instead made our way towards "Lochan Mhaoil na Meidhe" where, as the rain let up a bit and we saw a tiny bit of blue sky and it was sheltered, we stopped for a short break. We then skirted round the Loch and continued, making our way back towards Loch Lednock – and on our way got a really good view of where we should have been ! We kept up from the water as we made our way along the Loch, came down beside the Gatehouse, which houses the tunnel that takes water to St Fillans back up over the hill to the path. Then it was path all the way, passing a cottage ruin and over the bridge and back along to the car park – very wet but happy that we had had a really good and rewarding walk. Thanks Felicity and Robert for leading and putting up with us!!

## **Mo Thomson**

## **Walk - 26th October 2014 Newton Bridge to Amulree**

What do you do when the weather forecast is so bad that the planned walk from Amulree to Newton Bridge is not advised? You go where the weather's better and that's just what we did, to Errol and Port Allen. It was a great opportunity to follow one of the walks from Felicity's first *Explore Big Tree Country* books and good that we had Felicity to show us the way with lots of local information too.

Sixteen of us set off to explore this part of the Carse of Gowrie, starting from the Mercat Cross in Errol, down to the reed beds of the Tay, with a wee detour to see the work that is being done to promote and restore the historic orchards of this area. Imagine having a *Bloody Ploughman* and a *Lass o' Gowrie* apple tree in your garden. The walk was extended by going up to the railway line and past Inchcoonans and the old tile factory, which became the Errol Brick Company and is now making Mackies Potato Crisps. What next?

It was a delightful walk and the weather was a lot better than it would have been between Amulree and Newton Bridge. We look forward to doing that walk another day. If you do this walk from Felicity's book then pay a visit to the Cairn o' Mhor winery as well.

Thanks to Andrew (and Braan) who drove us there so expertly and appeared from time to time with refreshments for Felicity. Huge thanks to Felicity for suggesting and taking the walk and to Ken, Susan and Robert for planning the original walk.

## **Marjorie Bourne**

## **Stroll - 9th November 2014 Falkirk Wheel & Antonine Wall**

On a lovely Autumn Day twenty-six walkers set off from the Falkirk Wheel along the canal to Bonnybridge. Along the canal path some gardeners had planted up beyond their garden walls shrubs and various plants, which made the area look very pleasant.

When we arrived at Bonnybridge we walked along the road and turned off under a bridge up to a very interesting area. This consisted of very up market and over the top houses set in amongst an industrial area of breakers yards car repair shops and warehouses. One of the houses was called Antonine Lodge with standing stones in the garden and this had bricks on the top. Then on through a council estate talk about two extremes.

We finally came to the Antonine Wall which is earth embankments with a dyke and Rough Castle which is a large raised area. Lots of signs with how it may have looked and information. Irwin had been telling us about the history on the way. We decide to stop here and had lunch sitting on large boulders lining a pathway.

Irwin finally gathered us all together and marched us along the wall down the ditches across a stream and into a wood. Emerging from the wood we had arrived back at the road entrance to the Falkirk Wheel and a nice cup of tea. After the end of stroll refreshments some of the group decided to return home via a visit to the Kelpies.

A great day was had by all. Our thanks to the leaders.

### **Jill Campbell**

#### **Geology of the area**

The rocks under our feet throughout our walk are indeed flat-lying sediments of the Carboniferous age, at about the level where the sandstones of the Millstone Grit formation pass upwards into the shales and coal seams of the Coal Measures. The Central Coalfield of the Midland Valley of Scotland extends from Alloa in the north through Falkirk to Motherwell and Wishaw in the south, and supported many coal mines. Coal seams are frequently underlain a bed of clay ("fireclay") whose qualities made them suitable for the manufacture of refractory bricks for the lining of brick kilns. Fireclay was mined at Bonnybridge in the past. The geological map shows no igneous intrusions near Rough Castle, so the large blocks of dolerite upon which we sat to take our lunch must have been brought there, probably from a sill of that rock which crops out about two or three miles to the west.

### **Alan Dempster**

## Future Walks

### **30th November 2014      Walk      Invergeldie High Level Circular      7 Miles**

The last time we did this is was a rootaboot (real rambling) with Anne Kay leading, which means we'll take you up hill and down glen towards Loch Lednock dam and many places in-between. A must for a enthusiastic walkers keen to see the nooks and crannies available just outside Comrie with great views over the surrounding valleys.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 08.45. Depart Comrie School car park 09.00. Meet at Invergeldie car park 9.15.**

**Pay drivers 50p**

**Leaders: Ken Heiser (670545), Andrew Quinn, Susan Sinclair**

### **14 Dec 2014      Christmas Stroll and Lunch**

See the intimation on page 2 of this newsletter and the booking form at the end of the newsletter for details.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 09.45. Meet at Comrie School car park 09.00.**

**Leaders: Ken Heiser (670545)**

### **26 Dec 2014      Boxing Day Stroll**

Blow away the cobwebs, walk off some of that turkey and join fellow ramblers in a post Christmas mystery stroll with Anne Kay. **Please note** that children have to be accompanied with a responsible adult and there is a £1 charge for guests.

**Meet at Comrie School car park 10.00**

**Leader: Anne Kay (670898)**

### **11 Jan 2015      Stroll      Ruchill, Cultybraggan, Bogton Braes      4.5 miles**

An easy stroll to start the New Year. A ramble around Comrie visiting our favourite spots from the Ruchill to Auchingarrich and many places in between.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 09.45. Meet at Comrie School car park 10.00.**

**Leaders: Anne Kay (670898), Myra Robertson, Margaret McVicar**

### **25 Jan 2015      Walk      The Knock, Hosh & thereabouts      8 miles**

A local well-loved walk with some variations on a theme. On a clear day this walk provides great views across the Strath and many photo opportunities. After ascending to the top of the Knock we will wind our way around the area coming back to Taylor Park via the Hosh and Currochs.

**Depart Comrie School car park 09.00 Meet at Taylor Park car park 09.15**

**Leaders: Irwin Keith (652541), Stephanie Blaauw, Robert Harrison**

**8 Feb 2015      Stroll      Callander, Coillhallan Wood      5.5 Miles**

A new stroll around the outskirts of Callander. After meeting at the Callander Woods car park there is a short step through the town before entering the Coillhallan Wood then over the Gartchonzie Bridge towards Dunmore Fort. Thereafter there is a clear path by Bochastle Hill reaching the Rob Roy Way back towards Callander by the Eas Gobhain.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 09.45. Depart Comrie School car park 10.00. Meet at Callander Woods car park 10.45.**

**Pay Driver £3**

**Leaders: Margaret McVicar (670989), Myra Robertson, Margaret Shankland**

Directions to Callander Woods Car Park. Take the A85 to Lochearnhead then left on the A84 towards Callander and Stirling. In Callander the Callander Woods Car Park is on the right at Ancaster Square (the Tourist Information Office is on the left). The Square is a one way system which crosses the Main Street so as you come down from Lochearnhead it is the second on the right within the square.

**22 February      Walk      Dalchonzie and beyond      8 Miles**

A picturesque walk around Comrie touching places of historical interest, out to Kindrochet and coming back via Dunira. Ideal for a winter's day walking. The walk is relatively level except for very some short sections of incline.

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

**Leaders: Felicity Martin (670987), Dave McKeggie, Anne Kay**

**8 March      Stroll      Darn Walk, Dunblane to Bridge of Allan      5.5 miles**

A favourite stroll of the ramblers from the historic royal burgh of Dunblane to the up market town of Bridge of Allan along the Allan Water where the Allan Water Café makes an excellent destination point. The route is locally known as the Darn Road and is reputedly goes back to Roman times. Booking form for Co-Co Bus at the back of the newsletter. Please return the form to Anne Kay by Wednesday 4th March.

**Bus departs Comrie School car park 10.00. Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 10.15.**

**Cost of Bus £3.50**

**Leaders: Margaret Birks (07783 596953), Stephanie Blaauw, Irwin Keith**

**18 March 2015      Annual General Meeting      19.30 at Comrie Golf Club**

**29 March      Walk      Blairgowrie (Drimmie Woods, Tullyfergus & Den of Alyth)      8.5 Miles**

**Please note that the clocks go forward this weekend.**

Enjoy wide views on this circuit of old drove roads (part of the Catevan Trail), lochans, raspberry fields and a pretty wooded stream valley with spring wildflowers.

**Depart Comrie School car park 9.00 Crieff Coop car park 9.15.** Meet at Drimmie Woods car park, near Blairgowrie 10.00

**Pay drivers £4.**

**Leaders: Trish Hamilton (07970 758902),** Felicity Martin, Ken Heiser.

To reach the start, go through Blairgowrie, over the River Ericht and turn left for Glenshee/Braemar on the A93 then turn right in 1km (just beyond the old Keithbank Mill site) onto a minor road, signed Drimmie, that climbs steeply for 2.5 miles to the Forestry Commission's Drimmie Woods. The parking area is where the road bends left.

**12 April      Stroll      Braco Castle      6 miles**

Visit the gardens of Braco Castle, a garden full of daffodils and rhododendrons with a nice stroll included. There is an honesty box, based on voluntary contributions, on a table next to the castle before you enter the gardens.

**Depart Comrie School car park 10.00 Depart Crieff Coop car park 10.00.** Meet at Braco car park by the village hall, opposite the school 10.30

**Pay drivers £1.**

**Leaders: Margaret Birks (07783 596953),** Ann Rankine, Margaret Shankland

**19 April      Hill Walk      Beinn Stacath, Balquhidder      8 Miles Ascent 2142 feet**

This Corbett lies to the south of Balquidder and although only 653 metres in height is a test for the first of the season. The approach is from Glen Buckie, Ballimore. It a straightforward approach up boggy and rather featureless slopes. As the ascent is pathless for some of the time please make sure that you are wearing the correct clothing on the day.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 08.45. Comrie School car park 09.00.**

**Pay Drivers £2**

**Leaders: Dave McKeggie (652289),** Charlie Panton, David Sloan

Directions to Glen Buckie, Ballimore. At Lochearnhead take the A84 south towards Callander at Mhor 84 take the slip road towards Mhor 84 and pass under the A84 west towards Balquhidder. In Balquhidder village take a left heading south of a minor road towards Ballimore and Immeroin.

## **26 April      Walk      Mhor 84 to Callander via Loch Lubnaig      11 miles**

This part of the Rob Roy Way starting from Mhor 84 at the Balquhidder turnoff. Walking down to Strathyre the valley below opens out giving fantastic views of the area, The well maintained relatively flat path passes by the shores of Loch Lubnaig then, conditions permitting, a diversion to the Falls of Leny and continuing through a wooded section of land as it winds its way towards Callander. This is a very pleasant walk providing good views throughout. The booking form for the bus is at the end of the newsletter.

**Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 08.45. Bus departs Comrie School car park 09.00.**

**Cost of Bus: £4.00**

**Leaders: Stephanie Blaauw (679071), Ann Morrison, Val Callan**

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)

**Bus Booking Form**

**8 March Stroll Darn Walk, Dunblane to Bridge of Allan**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up Comrie walkers at 10.00 at Comrie School car park and Crieff walkers at 10.15 from the Crieff Coop car park. At the end of the stroll the bus will pick walkers up from Bridge of Allan.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £3.50 per person.

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Darn Walk" to the Transport

Secretary: Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Wednesday 4th March 2015.**

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Comrie School car park at 10.00

Tick the box if you wish to be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 10.15

Names of passengers .....

**Bus Booking Form**

**26 April Walk Mhor 84 to Callander**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up 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 Callander back to Comrie and Crieff.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £4 per person.

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Mhor 84 to Callander" to the

Transport Secretary: Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Wednesday 22nd April 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 .....

**Christmas Lunch Booking Form**

**Lunch at 12.30 for 13.00 on Sunday, 14th December 2014 at The Comrie Croft**

I/We wish to attend the Christmas Lunch at Comrie Croft on 14th December 2014

The names of the attendees are

.....  
.....  
.....

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £12 per person.

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked as the “Xmas Lunch” to

The Treasurer,  
Susan Sinclair,  
5 Strathview Place,  
Comrie, PH6 2HG

**Closing date: Sunday 7th December 2014.**

Cheques to be made to “Strathearn Ramblers”.

The lunch will consist of a choice of two soups, a main course of hog roast filled baguettes with tea or coffee and Christmas mince pies to finish. As we do not have a licence to serve alcohol at the Comrie Croft please bring your own bottle.

Please indicate any dietary requirements below.

.....

**The Christmas Stroll will start at 10.00 from the Comrie School car park.**