



# Strathearn Rambler

Spring 2015

Issue No. 70

Editor: Irwin Keith



## Chairman's Report

Spring has almost sprung, hopefully we have seen the last of the snow flurries, but then again we might have to wait till May is out.

The year has started with some good walks to reduce the excesses over the winter period, and some of us have been fortunate to enjoy a week in Portugal in early March. A week of wall to wall sunshine and although a cool wind at times, it was good walking weather. A cocktail of fun and laughter and good company was a tonic to start 2015.

The 20th anniversary AGM in March was well attended, and the business side of the meeting concluded by welcoming a new Vice Chairman Myra Robertson and two new committee members Dave McLeod and Val Callan to replace Margaret Birks and Myra. At this point may I take the opportunity to thank Felicity Martin in her role as Vice Chairman for her tireless work and energy on behalf of the Ramblers, also Margaret Birks who needs to take some time out for domestic purposes. May I just say to both of them, "haste ye back".

It also gives me great pleasure on behalf of the committee to inform you that Margaret Shankland was made Honourable President and rightly so for her work and advice over the years to the Club. The Honourable Vice President position was deferred to Robert Burns and Anne Kay and Ann Rankine, both being made Honourable Members. It goes without saying that they have all made positive indelible marks on the Club. A big thank you from all of us.

The introduction proposed by Felicity of a Walks Sub Committee to just organise the walks programme has been a resounding success, we have a good balanced programme which we hope will suit all capabilities.

We hope to organise a full day walk through Glen Tilt in June using the Co-Co bus, there are only 16 spaces so get your name down fast.

Myra Robertson has again offered her garden at Catonia Cottage in Comrie for the Clubs annual BBQ, make sure you enter this delightful afternoon and evening in your diary.

Our September Weekend away this year takes us up the main A9 to Kingussie and the Duke of Gordon Hotel, I hope you will all enjoy the programme we offer to you in this much loved walking area, and as usual we will have walks for all capabilities.

Committee have decided to have a 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the White Church Hall on Friday, 2nd October. We hope to make this a very memorable occasion, inviting all members and past members, so please mark this down in your diary.

To conclude, may I on behalf of our committee members wish you all a good, safe Rambling year.

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

### **September Weekend Away**

The September weekend away this year 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 at the back of newsletter 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 by 31st May 2015. The final cost to be paid by 5th August 2014.

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

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Strathearn Ramblers there will be a supper dance at the White Church on 2nd October 2015. The evening will consist of a buffet followed by a dance provided by a popular ceilidh band. Transport will be provided for people living in Crieff. 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. As this is a celebration of our 20th Anniversary the committee will endeavour to keep the price of tickets at 1995 prices.

The next newsletter will include a booking form with all the relevant information. Until then please make sure that your diary is free on 2nd October.

## Subscription Renewal

The subscription for 2014/15 has been kept at a very reasonable £10. If you have not paid please do so by sending your remittance to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie, PH6 2HG by 30th April 2015.

To ensure that our records are kept up to date could you please fill in the form at the back of the Newsletter. This will ensure that any communication will be sent to you in a timely fashion.

## Glen Tilt Walk 7th June 2015

A few years ago some Ramblers successfully undertook this walk and this is an opportunity to revisit the serious undertaking of 22 miles with a potentially difficult remote river crossing near the start.

This old route is one of the great historical rights of way in Scotland. In 1847, a group of Edinburgh University students had an acrimonious encounter with the Duke of Atholl and his ghillies. This resulted in a lengthy legal battle between the Scottish Rights of Way Society and the Duke to establish the route's status, a dispute which ultimately went to the House of Lords. This case did more than any other to raise public awareness of rights of way.

If there are sufficient numbers of ramblers wishing to participate in this proposal the plan would be that the Ramblers will be taken up by bus to the Linn of Dee where they will be dropped off and then will walk back to Blair Atholl following the renowned route. The bus will pick up the walkers at the end of the walk to return them home in the evening. The bus will leave Comrie School car park at 06.00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 06.15. The cost of the bus will be £6. If you wish to join this adventure please contact the Chairman, Ken Heiser on 670545 by 14th May.

## Change of Date of June Stroll

To reciprocate a stroll and walk which some members of our club led on behalf of the Laurencekirk Over 50's Walking Group when they visited Comrie the Laurencekirk Group have invited us to walk within the Edzell area at the end of May. To accommodate this kind offer we have changed the dates of the **June Stroll to 31st May** and the **May Walk will now take place on 14th June**. Further details of these changes are contained in the future walks section of this newsletter.

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

**Friday, 14th August 2015**

Myra has generously opened her garden at Catonia Cottage, Nurses Lane, Comrie for the Ramblers' Annual BBQ on 14 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.

### **Tick Control**

As the weather gets warmer there will be an increase in the tick population. These bites if not dealt with quickly can lead, in a few cases, to Lyme disease. The best plan is to remove a tick as soon after being bitten to reduce this probability.

Inexpensive tick removal devices may be available at chemists and veterinary surgeries at a cost of around £2. The tick removing device comes with manufacturers' instructions on how to use the device correctly.

Advice on tick bites and other stings is available at <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Bites-insect/Pages/Treatment.aspx>. It is recommended that all ramblers make themselves aware of this site.

### **Booking Forms**

As you will see there are many booking forms within this Newsletter. To avoid confusion and disappointment can you please ensure that the correct booking form is enclosed with your monies and that the envelopes are marked appropriately.

## **Crieff Navigation Centre**

Something I've wanted to do came my way quite unexpectedly. On 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March I had the good fortune to attend Crieff Navigation Centre on a two day in-depth course run by the talented and knowledgeable John Speck. There were three of us on the course, myself and two very nice ladies. The course was quite intense. Our first morning started at 08:00 and there was a lot to learn. John with his easy going manner meant that we would acquaint ourselves with the complexity of navigation at the centre before putting it to test in the wilds. We learnt about reading map detail, understand contours, route choice, the compass, setting the map, bearings, map world, the real world, magnetic variation, relocation strategies, measuring distance, Naismiths' Timing chart, to name just a few necessary skills for achieving accurate navigation.

We successfully found our way around a forest in the afternoon under John's watchful eye, helping us when we needed reassurance and pointing out valuable strategies along the way. The next stage was to put into practice all that we had learnt throughout the day into night navigation. As dusk fell we set off from the standing stone above Fowlis Wester and by the time we reached the forest it was pitch dark. This was an exciting exercise and taking various compass bearings on the map we navigated the terrain to the exact spot on the hill that John had indicated and finally back down to the track we had started out on. This is indeed the stuff of confidence building. We completed night navigation by approximately 21:30 exhilarated from our experience.

The following day we met at the centre at 09:00 and after a debrief we headed out to Glen Lednock for a full day, testing our navigation skills in the hills. We worked very hard that day finishing at approximately 17:30 and we all thoroughly enjoyed the challenge. John's enthusiasm was inspiring, and although we were tired after all the fresh air and brain power, not to mention the miles we had covered, we agreed that our awareness and navigation skills had improved one hundred per cent thanks to John and his immeasurable patience and teaching. I would do it all over again and can highly recommend the experience to anyone who would be interested in going on John's navigation course. Best thing I've ever done.

Susan Sinclair

# Walk Reports

## **Christmas Stroll and Lunch 14th December**

Starting the Comrie School car park our respected chairman greeted the assembled throngs of strollers, elves and assorted festive characters to our annual meander through the local district. Trailing around the back of Comrie the group arrived at the Comrie Golf Clubhouse just as a sharp sleet shower began to roll across the course.

At the clubhouse Jan Heiser was ready waiting with gallons of mulled wine and other nibbles. On the nibbles front it was commented that unfortunately Margaret Birks could not be with us as she had a better offer on the day. Although she was missed her delicious shortbread was even a greater miss. To salve the shortbread starved masses Ken and Irwin lead the Christmas Carol singing which showed that they were no "Righteous Brothers" with rioting in the ranks being averted by several ladies of good voice drowning out the two leading criminals against music.

Leaving the clubhouse Ken led the well fired assembly up across the golf course north towards the Balmuick road which in the conditions, was a bit of a haul. That was the highest point of the stroll thereafter we trailed eastwards passed Charles Wood where we came across, a large dump of relatively fresh vegetables. There was much discussion about this plonk of food with no conclusion forthcoming but as a cautionary note beware of all vegetable soups being served in members' houses over the next couple of months.

Just beyond Lawers House the walkers stopped at the waterfall of the Balmenoch burn to take photographs as it was in full flow. Thereafter, with Comrie Croft in sight we negotiated a muddy stretch towards the dining area happy in the knowledge of a super secret stroll in good and harmonious company.

The committee supplied the soup for the lunch and Gourlay's the Hog Roast, unfortunately the ovens stopped working and therefore there was a delay serving the mince pies. Robert Harrison provided his usual interesting and amusing slideshow of the year's walks which is always appreciated by the rambles.

A great deal of thanks go to Ken for organising the day.

**Irwin Keith**

## **Stroll 11th January Ruchill, Cultybraggan, Bogton Braes**

Two intrepid walkers joined the 3 leaders in Comrie on a very wet Sunday morning. This was the first walk of the year.

We crossed the River Earn, then followed a footpath on the east side of the Water of Ruchill for about a mile, until we picked up the Tinker's Path to join the B827 near West Cowden Farm following the path up Bogton Braes (this was a grassy winding track of the old Comrie to Dunblane road). We passed the ruins of Bogton Farm. The path on which we walked was now a small stream and I can quite understand why it was called Bogton Farm.

As we walked to Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre I think we were in better spirits than the drenched wallabies at the centre; they looked very miserable. Obviously there were no sign of any meerkats.

After a lengthy lunch of Parsnip and Apple soup which was souper, we decided to brave the elements again and continued downhill to Glascorrie Road, at the Mill of Fortune walkers took a detour to rejoin the Bogton Brae path. It was downhill all the way to Comrie, where the weather got much worse. We only walked about 4 miles in total but we felt we had all braved the elements.

Then it was back home for dry clothes and a cup of tea.

Thanks to Anne Kay, Myra Robertson and Margaret McVicar for leading the walk. Richard and I did wonder if they would have done the walk, if no one had turned up. We will never know!!!

**Carol Buchan**

## **Walk 25 January The Knock, Hosh and thereabouts**

The first walk of the New Year for the Ramblers, and 26 of us turned out for it which was nice to see. The meeting point was Taylor Park with one new member.

We set off through the park and up to the Knock it was a steady climb to the top with some views. The difficulty came in getting down as there was so much ice still lying all the way down to the view point. Thanks to our leader Irwin we descended with no mishaps and had a coffee at the view point above the golf course. Due to the weather conditions we got cold very quickly and moved off towards the Hosh where, thankfully, all the ice had melted which made the walking much easier. From the Hosh we made our way to Ochertyre estate and around the Loch which was still frozen in parts and quite muddy in places. Crossing the Crieff / Comrie road and following the path behind Laggan Hill we walked up to Baird's Monument for a spot of lunch. It is worth a visit there when the Daffodils and Bluebells are out. After lunch we all headed for Lady Mary's walk. At Trowan we had to pass two old donkeys which appeared to be one of the main attractions on the walk. We then walked along Lady Mary's and back to the car park for some, and a short walk home for others.

Many thanks to our leaders Irwin Stephanie and Robert. It was a good walk to start the New Year.

**Val Callan**

## **Stroll 8 February Callander, Coilhallan Wood**

On a good weather day 24 strollers started from the centre of Callander turning down towards the river and crossing by the old metal and passing the local rugby club on the right. Over the main road we entered Coilhallan Wood through a pillared entrance where the path took us high above Callander on tracks which were splattered with snow and ice. At the top of the hill we stopped for coffee and although the views were obscured by the trees the usual chat and gaiety amongst the walkers made up for the lack of the vista. The short walk down to the Coilhallan car park was taken with care as there were some very icy patches lurking in the sheltered spots. The leaders ensured that everybody got down safely and nobody fell.

After crossing the Gartchonzie Bridge we headed for the Dunmore Fort path where some of the strollers elected to climb up to the Fort. After some discussion to ensure all safety issues were covered the majority carried on the path towards Callander. A small party took off for the fort and were rewarded with magnificent views across to Ben Ledi and Loch Venachar and the hills toward Loch Earn. After lunch near Samson's Putting Stone each group walked back into Callander on the old railway line.

It should be noted that the group that did not venture up to Dunmore Fort established base camp in a local café and by the time the adventurers joined them all the scones had been snaffled. It was a compliment to our good nature of the ramblers that whilst the adventurers waited for fresh produce the smell of half eaten scones and fresh coffee emanating from the adjoining tables did not cause a riot.

Thanks to our leaders, Myra, Margaret McV and Anne K for the great day.

**Irwin Keith**

## **Walk 22 February Dalchonzie and beyond**

The advance notice for this walk was accurate including the words 'Ideal for a winter's day walking' as the nine of us enjoyed our walk in and on light snow all the way; meanwhile we note that the Chairman had sent a recent photo of himself in the sun on the beach in Portugal!

We crossed the fine Bridge of Ross, passed the Earthquake House and thereafter the walk was through pleasant woodlands and pastures, with points of special interest such as Aberuchill Castle and its burial ground, Dalchonzie Power Station with its tailrace passing under the Tamhaisg burn, the signal box house of Dunira Junction, where we joined the dismantled railway route to the West. Crossing an excellent riveted bowstring railway bridge we walked the even railway gradient beside the River Earn.

We visited the ancient Chambered Cairn which has been 'vandalised' by the erection of a power pole in the middle of the cairn, and there is little sign of any attempt to preserve this site.

After crossing the Earn at Kindrochet, we enjoyed our lunch in the dry under yew trees sitting on the outer wall of Dunira's burial ground at Wolf's Knowe.

The return route to Comrie was through the Dunira estate, viewing the foundations and terraces of the demolished Dunira House, then passing above the Whitehouse of Dunira. After climbing to a track called Maam Road then the path between Twenty Shilling Wood and Pollyrigg Wood finally joining the Monument Road into Comrie.

Many thanks to our leaders Felicity Martin, Dave McKeggie and Anne Kay for a great winter walk.

**Richard Haseltine**

## **Stroll                      8th March    Darn Road Walk – Dunblane to Bridge of Allan**

It 's not often that we are fortunate enough to get the best and only bright and sunny day for several days for a Ramblers' Stroll, but that's exactly what it was - unexpectedly sandwiched between two low-pressure fronts of wild and wet weather. So 10 of us made the trip – kindly driven by Andrew, who dropped us off at the Mill Road CP in Dunblane. We began by doing a short circuit up and around the River Allan and the cathedral before crossing the main road and starting off on the old track to Bridge of Allan. The Allan was raging with all the recent rain and snow-melt, but fortunately well contained within its banks. We crossed and re-crossed it over different bridges, passing the old bleaching fields and remnants of old mill works and the rail cuttings to them.

The old Darn Road itself took us along beside the golf course with lovely views south, before dropping down beside Kippenross House – an old Jacobite safe house, with mighty trees along its bordering wall. We then detoured across a footbridge to flatter scrubland with several lovely hazel trees festooned with catkins, and on to a small river beach where we had our lunch (no paddling today in spite of sun and sand!).

Well rested, we then re-started the walk with a climb uphill and then down again to cross the Warry Burn over which only half of the footbridge was still usable (the rest having been demolished by earlier floods), so a bit of a scramble over stepping stones and boulders was necessary. We passed a big cave on the way known both as Rob Roy's Cave (aren't they all around here!) and the inspiration for Ben Gunn's Cave in RL Stevenson's Treasure Island. Not long after we were approaching the outskirts of Bridge of Allan, but instead of heading down here, we carried on into Mine Woods, where an old quarry (for stone for the bridge) and mines for Copper and Malachite, were points of interest with good interpretation panels. We looked in vain for the carved face of a 'lady of the woods' supposed to be hiding in a tree, but the search led us into beautiful beech woods, very enjoyable in the winter sunshine, and at the top, views to the north over Bridge of Allen golf course. A few of us went on to do the extra ½ mile to the gated Copper Mine before we all headed into town for refreshments and then the walk back to Andrew and the bus. Especial thanks to Margaret for a lovely and varied walk and all the historical information she provided along the way, and to the bus driver Andrew!

**Stephanie Blaauw**

## **Walk    29<sup>th</sup> March    Drimmie Woods, Tullyfergus & Den of Alyth**

Fourteen of us having been suitably diligent in changing our clocks on the Saturday night met at Drimmie Woods car park near Blairgowrie to start our walk. The weather was much better than back at home and apart from a short, light shower stayed that way for the whole walk.

Fairly early on after leaving the woods we stopped for a break beside a lovely little lochan where two swans seemed very interested in us until they discovered that nobody was going to feed them! The walk continued past numerous fields of soft fruit with great views across to the Sidlaw Hills.

We arrived at Alyth which is a lovely, well kept and old fashioned village with plenty of photo opportunities including one of the gentlemen in the party beneath a sign for "Classic Restoration" (not sure whether they were advertising it or in need of it!!)

We had lunch in a park at Den of Alyth with opportunities for those who wished to try out the zip wire. The walk continued alongside the Alyth Burn giving yet more variety in scenery. All in all a lovely walk in an area new to most of us.

A big thank you to Trish Hamilton for leading and to Felicity and Ken for assisting.

**Sandra Campbell**

## Future Walks

### **19th April Hill Walk Beinn Stacath, Balquhidder 653m/2142ft 9miles**

This Corbett lies to the south of Balquhidder 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**

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

### **10th May Stroll Stanley to Ballathie 6 miles**

An easy stroll on the old railway line north of the Tay. It is a there and back walk in an area relatively new to the ramblers. Weather and time permitting there is a diversion to the sandy beach by Campsie Linn on the River Tay.

**Depart Comrie School car park 10.00 Depart Crieff Coop car park 10.15. Meet at Stanley Post Office, Store Street 10.55**

**Pay drivers £3.**

**Leaders: M McVicar (670989), A Kay, A Rankine**

**24th May Hill Walk Ben Vane, Arrochar 915 m/3002ft 6.75miles**

Ben Vane is a Munro with steep, rocky ascent. It has nice views from the top and is well worth the sustained walk to reach the summit. The walk starts at Inveruglas Visitor Centre on the west side of Loch Lomond after a short walk on a tarmac road the walk crosses some boggy ground where a steep path is found. The top is easily reached after a few false summits on the way.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 07.45 Comrie School car park 08.00** Meet at Inveruglas Car Park on A82 Grid Reference NN322098 at 09.00

**Pay Drivers £4.50**

**Leaders: R Burns (670408), C Panton, D McLeod**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS STROLL.**

**31st May Stroll Rocks of Solitude 5 miles**  
**Walk Rocks of Solitude 8 miles**

The walk will start from the church car park at Edzell and follow the river North Esk upstream for 1.5 miles then enter the Rocks of Solitude through the “Blue Door” as it squeezes through an impressive gorge and woodland paths. The strollers will be taken by bus to the “Blue Door” and to the Rocks of Solitude. After the stroll and walk we will be taken or perhaps walk to Denstrath for afternoon tea. The earlier departure time than normal will ensure that we will get back home at a reasonable time, probably leaving Denstrath no later than 17.00

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

**Please note the bus departure times.**

**Cost of Bus: £13**

**Walk Leaders: Laurencekirk Over 50’s Walking Group**

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS WALK.**

**14th June Walk Kenmore to Aberfeldy via River Tay 9 miles**

This is a well loved walk by the ramblers starting in Kenmore village and crossing the Tay to the north side passing Maxwell’s Temple and Inchadney to Comrie Castle on the River Lyon. From there following the Lyon and the Tay till it reaches Aberfeldy and the Wade Bridge through meadows of season flowers with views across to Dull Woods and Castle Menzies. See booking form for the bus at the back of the newsletter.

**Bus departs Comrie School car park 09.00. Bus departs Crieff Coop car park 09.15.**

**Cost of Bus: £4**

**Leaders: K Heiser (670545), M Robertson, M McVicar**

**21st June Hill Walk Beinn Chabhair 933m/3061ft 9 miles**

The walk start from the Drovers Inn, Inverarnan on the A82. Beinn Chabhair is a Munro with a summit ridge which is a lumpy collection of knolls and rocky humps which make a great walk in fine weather. The Summit affords a great view down Loch Long. The lower section can be boggy and the first and last sections of the path next to Beinglas Falls are stony and eroded.

**Depart Crieff Coop car park 07.45 and Comrie School car park 08.00. Meet at Inverarnan 09.00**

**Pay Drivers £3.50**

**Walk Leaders: D McKeggie (652289), A Quinn, D MacDonald**

**28th June Walk Killin to St Fillans via Loch Breaclauch 13 miles**

Part of the Clan Ring walking experience. The walk starts by the burial ground in Killin of Clan MacNab and walks through the woodland via Auchmore up to Loch Breaclauch. Coming off the track just south east of Meall Ohder the walk crosses rough moorland for a mile and a half joining the track at the head of Glen Beich then following the well known Glen Tarken track to St Fillans. This is a new walk to the Ramblers which provides good views across Perthshire. 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: £3**

**Leaders: K Heiser (670545), V Callan, R Harrison**

**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.

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 Baaauw**

**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), A Quinn, 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 Scotladwell 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 your 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**

**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.

1/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 by 31st May 2015**

**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 .....

**Bus Booking Form**

**31 May Stroll & Walk Rocks of Solitude, Edzell**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up at Comrie School car park at 08.00 and at Crieff Coop car park 08.15. At the end of the walk the bus will take walkers from Callander back to Comrie and Crieff.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £13 per person.

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Rocks of Solitude" to the Transport Secretary:

Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Sunday 24nd May 2015.**

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Tick the box if you wish to be picked up at Comrie School car park at 08.00

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 08.15

Names of passengers .....

**Bus Booking Form**

**14th June Walk Kenmore to Aberfeldy via River Tay**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up at Comrie School car park 09.00 and at Crieff Coop car park at 09.15. At the end of the walk the bus will take walkers from Aberfeldy back to Comrie and Crieff.

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

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

Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Wednesday 10th June 2015.**

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

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

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 09.15

Names of passengers .....

**Bus Booking Form**

**28th June**

**Walk**

**Killin to St Fillans via Loch Breacloch**

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 St Fillans back to Comrie and Crieff.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £3 per person.

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

Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Wednesday 24th June 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 .....

**Bus Booking Form**

**12th July**

**Stroll & Walk**

**Isle of Kerrera**

Please reserve .....seats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up at Crieff Coop car park at 08.00 and at Comrie School car park 08.15. At the end of the walk the bus will take walkers from Kerrera back to Comrie and Crieff.

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

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Isle of Kerrera" to the Transport Secretary:

Anne Kay  
4 Strowan Square  
Comrie PH6 2ER

**Closing date: Sunday 5th July 2015.**

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Tick the box if you wish to be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 08.00

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Comrie School car park at 08.15

Names of passengers .....

## Strathearn Ramblers Membership

Membership fees for 2015/16 are due by 30th April 2015.

The fee remains the same as last year at £10 and we very much hope you will rejoin.

Please make the cheque out to "Strathearn Ramblers" and return this membership form plus your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Susan Sinclair, 5 Strathview Place, Comrie PH6 2HG.

<b>First Name</b>		<b>Address</b>	
<b>Surname</b>			
<b>Telephone No.</b>			
<b>Mobile No. (Optional)</b>		<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Email</b>			

- ◇ If you joined the club after December 2014 your membership will run until March 2016.
- ◇ Data Protection Act. Your details from this form will be held on computer and used by the committee to assist in the smooth running of the club. It will not be used for any other purposes. If you have any objection to this please contact the Membership Secretary.
- ◇ Please inform the Membership Secretary of any change to your email address or any other contact details during the year.

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.

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