



Strathearn Rambler

Summer 2016

Issue no. 74

Editor: Felicity Martin



Chairman's Report

Since the last Newsletter the weather has been somewhat variable although this has not stopped the ramblers getting out. We have enjoyed a good variety of walks and strolls, and I have to thank the walk sub-committee for the organisation of the programme. However suggestions for walks, including re-visits, are welcomed from all members and can be made to any committee member. If it is not included in the current walking schedule it would go forward for consideration at the future meetings of the sub-committee.

A couple of years ago we ran a leaders' programme to encourage more ramblers to become leaders and to renew the skills of existing leaders. As an adjunct to this programme we are currently producing reference cards for all leaders to ensure that we maintain a high level of enjoyment and safety on our walks. On walks there are obvious checks and processes leaders must undertake before, during and after the walk and these reference cards are an aid to these and other issues to look out for. One idea which we have seen implemented in other walking groups is for each Rambler to hold important information within their backpack. The information would include:

- your personal details, name, address, etc.
- any ongoing medical condition which could be relevant if you were involved in an accident or collapsed
- allergies, for example penicillin
- contact details, not necessarily the next of kin but someone you would wish to contact for ongoing assistance.

This information ideally would be placed in a sealed envelope and only opened in critical emergencies. Please consider this request seriously as it would help the leaders if a situation arose.

At the AGM there was a request for stroll leaders and, due to circumstances, I appeal to any Rambler who thinks they can help on strolls to contact me. Anybody who does volunteer will be thoroughly supported as they gain experience and responsibility.

Finally, please remember we have a BBQ at Myra's house on Friday, 19th August. Everybody is welcome for a smashing social event.

Irwin Keith

Strathearn Ramblers Committee 2016-2017

Chairman	Irwin Keith	652541
Vice-chair	Myra Robertson	670166
Treasurer	Susan Sinclair	670654
Secretary	Andrew Quinn	679887
Committee	Carol Buchan	650606
	Val Callan	653863
	Robert Harrison	679582
	Ken Heiser	670545
	Felicity Martin	670987
	David McKeggie	652289
	David McLeod	01786 880984
	Margaret McVicar	670989

BBQ at Myra Robertson's garden

Friday, 19 August 2014

Myra has generously opened her garden at Catonia Cottage, Nurses Lane, Comrie for the Ramblers' Annual BBQ on 19 August 2014. 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 friendly evening.

A limited amount of wine and nibbles will be supplied which were left over from the AGM.

Crieff parking

Crieff Coop car park has a 2-hour maximum stay time. If you are joining a walk there and leaving your car all day, you are advised to park at the eastern end of the car park, which is council owned and permits long stays.

Membership

Our chairman Irwin is keeping the membership list at the moment.

If your contact details change during the year, please let him know otherwise you may miss out on newsletters and other communications. Similarly, anyone who would like to join the Strathearn Ramblers should contact **Irwin Keith** at:

St John's, 7 Strathearn Terrace, Crieff, PH7 3DT (652541 or i.keith@btinternet.com)

Walk Reports

10th April

Cambusmichael, Stormontfield Stroll

A happy band of strollers set off on the Co-Co bus with Ken driving and luckily with Ian & Irwin able to educate him on the speed limits relating to a minibus. Whilst passing through Perth we could see the weather was in our favour and good time was going to be had by all.

Ken dropped us off at the farm next to Cambusmichael Burn where we walked down to the ruins of the early 16th century parish church of Cambusmichael. After scrabbling around the graveyard, wondering about the significance of the gravestone symbols, we followed the burn down to the Tay with the river on the right and a lade on the left and Stanley Mill across the river.



Cambusmichael Church

Our morning coffee stop was at the sharp bend in the river opposite the tall precarious bank at the south side of Stanley village. There was a considerable speculation on the stability and riskiness of the houses built at the top of the bank.

Walking towards Stormontfield we met up with Ken at the bleaching fields. Originally Stormontfield was called Colenhaugh but changed in honour of the Earl of Mansfield, formerly known as Viscount Stormont. The bleaching days of linen and cotton were over following a fire at the factory in 1971, though some view this as a blessing as working with the bleaching lime was seen as a hazardous process. Coming across a fly casting school on the river bank the writer realised that fly casting is a skill he would never master as standing up to your chest in Scotland's rivers does not compare to walking along their banks. Before lunch we came across a newly constructed local hydro plant on Stormontfield's lade. Originally a Victorian hydropower generator for the mills, it was replaced in 1946 but fell into disrepair. In 2002 it was renovated to provide local energy for 200 homes at maximum capacity.



Lunch was taken at Waulkmill where the Colen Burn enters the Tay. It being a warm day, most of the Ramblers stretched out on the grass, where Alan Dempster regaled us with tales of his youth in Glasgow whilst others were fascinated by an unidentified creepy-crawlie which had even Felicity stumped. Waulkmill got its name from the final process of cloth making to achieve a tighter finish. Waulkmill was also a ferry crossing to Hatton on the other side of the Tay and the fares (see left) are displayed at the ferryman's cottage next to the river. From the ferry it was a quick stroll to Scone Racehorse to pick up the CoCo bus for home. Thanks go to our leaders Robert, Myra and Felicity for a lovely stroll with a multitude of historical anecdotes. Thanks also to Ken for driving the minibus.

IRWIN KEITH

17th April Hill Walk Meall Tairneachain & Farragon Hill

Thirteen Ramblers set off on a cold, windy morning from Derculich in Strath Tay to walk to Farragon Hill – the large conical hill north of Aberfeldy. This was a walk of three parts: farm land, moorland and a high peak with great views.

We climbed steadily uphill onto the moorland and had morning coffee at the boat house at Loch Derculich – highly recommended – complete with table and chairs and a great view of the lake. This is normally used by fisherman and it also had a large net for catching fish. I'm sure the photos will appear at the Christmas Party, but we caught nothing.

Onward along a rough track until we cut off to tackle Farragon Hill. A few hundred yards of heather hopping and a traverse towards the south then a very steep uphill climb in very high winds. The view from the top was good but sadly it didn't last. Lesley identified Schiehallion, Ben Vrackie and Aberfeldy – full marks to her as other Ramblers didn't have a clue where they were. Downhill by almost the same steep descent and back onto the track. We then headed through the forest to Loch Glassie, which was beautiful and tranquil, and downhill to Cluny Gardens.

We were followed by a lamb who wanted to be adopted and saw two hares, a red squirrel and four deer cut outs that were used for target practice. A total of 12 miles and 3000 feet of ascent. Thanks to Robert, Charlie and Dave for a lovely but tiring walk. Ready for a cup of tea and cake.

CAROL BUCHAN

24th April Walk Sron a' Chlachain & Moirlanich Longhouse

This was the first hard walk of the spring/summer 2016 and it was a cracker with 14 walkers arriving at the Killin car park. There was very little water at the Falls of Dochart when we drove past.

At the very start of the walk, we went over to see Fingal's Stone in Breadalbane Park, a single standing stone that is just short of 3 feet high. In 1889, the stone was re-erected after it had fallen and a smaller stone was placed on the top of the larger one.

Now we had the hard work to do – the climb to the top of the hill. It was steep going for a while and Dave said we will take a (puff) break. When we turned around the views of Loch Tay and Killin were just something else. The further up we climbed the better the views. We could see the Ben Lawers group with plenty of snow on them and we could also see Stob Binnein. The weather was just perfect for us.

After leaving the view of the Tay behind we were in Glen Lochay. It is 20 miles long and is a remote glen, and delightful to walk through although we only did a bit of it. Down off the hill, we came upon the Longhouse and it was a shame it was still closed for the season, although a sign and my research discovered that inside the



Robert Harrison at work

longhouse it is unchanged since it was last lived in, however long that is. [Ed: The last of the Robertsons who lived there died in 1968.]

We just had a short walk on the road to the cars and then we called in at the Clachan in Lochearnhead for a well-earned drink. All enjoyed a great day out. Many thanks David McKeggie and Margaret McVicar. I could say thanks to myself as the back-marker but that seems a little pretentious.

VAL CALLAN

15th May Stroll Blairgowrie Bluebell Walk

Ramblers arrived from all directions – in fact there were so many at the Co-op in Crieff that another car had to be commandeered. (Only one car load from Comrie this time). Even more folk were waiting for us at the car park in Carsie, including Trish Hamilton, one of the leaders who now lives over in Blairgowrie.

The weather was promising and everyone had fingers crossed that the famous bluebells would be in full bloom. (They weren't when the recce was done). After walking past some very "quaint" front gardens, we reached the path to the White Loch where we were confronted with some frightening examples of the damage that beavers can cause. Many of the trees round the loch were on the verge of collapse after being chewed through. Some just lay where they had fallen – much too big for the beavers to move.

However it was bluebells we were looking for, not beavers, and we were not disappointed. Round every bend there were more. It was heartening to see so many families with young children out and about enjoying the spectacle. In fact one crowd looked as if they were just about to organise a children's birthday picnic, complete with balloons etc.

All in all a delightful stroll with much laughter and great company as usual. Thanks to the leaders for all their hard work.

ANN MORRISON

22nd May Hill Walk Meall Glas from Glen Dochart

After a long dry spell there were two quite wet days just before this walk. The ten ramblers including three new members were therefore expecting a rather soggy uphill moorland walk.

However setting off on a warm dry sunny morning from Auchessan farm a few miles east of Crianlarich, jackets were soon discarded. We passed quite a bit of construction on a new road to install a local hydro scheme.

At this point one of our lady ramblers who had been feeling unwell decided that she could not continue and Dave McL volunteered to take her back to the farm from where arrangements were made for her to be collected and returned home. Dave then set off to try to catch up with the remainder of the group.

Continuing up a rather wet path we eventually had to take to rough, heathery moorland with the steeper section of Meall Glas gradually coming into view and apparently guarded by a vertical cliff, Creag Dubh. Skirting round the west end of the cliff, the real steep grassy ascent began. After a few hundred feet there was some respite when we crossed a plateau before tackling another steep uphill slope which this time led to the summit at 959 metres.

From there great views could be had of Ben More just across the valley, Ben Vorlich and in the distance Ben Nevis and the Cairngorms.

Lunch for most of us, except Helen, was had on the lee side of the summit. Her lunch was somewhere below us in Dave's rucksack. Soon her hunger was relieved as Dave came into sight below us and in a short while was sharing lunch.

The planned return route was changed as an easy path could be seen leading NE to a subsidiary top and down to the bealach between Meall Glas and Sgiath Chuil (climbed in August 2014). From there we followed the burn all the way back to Auchessan.

The forecast heavy showers didn't really materialise and all in all we had a fine late spring day. Thanks to our leaders Charlie, Dave McK and particularly Dave McL for the extra walking he did.

ROBERT BURNS

29th May Walk Aberfoyle to Callander

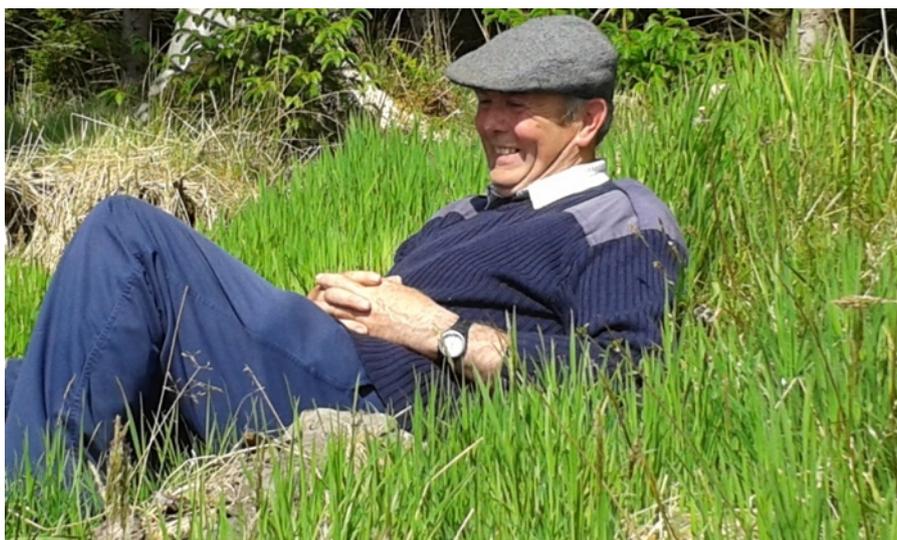
The bus was booked so that we could do this linear walk and kindly driven by Billy Kay. It turned out to be a scorcher of a day so we were glad of some shelter in Achray Forest (how often can we say that!).

The route was following the Rob Roy Way but these markers were not always obvious as the people who did the recce found out. No mistakes as we followed the route with lovely views over to Ben Ledi and Loch Venachar. We had three lovely pit stops during the walk and then a final one at Mohr 84 for some of those giant meringues!

On an educational note, Ken showed us the small cemetery on the road out of Callander that had a little stone lookout tower, which was used when Burke and Hare used to come and raid the graves for bodies!

Fifteen very happy walkers and huge thanks as always to the leaders for the time they put in to organising and doing recces for these walks which the rest of us turn up and enjoy.

LESLEY WRIGHT



*Robert Harrison at rest
[Ed: There seems to be a pattern here!]*

12th June Stroll Bridge of Earn to Dunbarney

Twelve Ramblers set off for Bridge of Earn on a wet Sunday morning hoping the cloud and rain would eventually clear.

Parking the cars on Main Street we walked towards the primary school and turned left into the Forgandenny road. A short distance on we were able to look over a field to see what is known as 'Cromwell's Tree' – an ancient sweet chestnut with writhing bare branches and a lower trunk covered in healthy green branches. The story goes that Cromwell had set up camp here in 1651 before marching on Perth and the tree was planted on the day that Perth fell to his troops.

It wasn't far beyond this to the gates of Dunbarney House where we stopped to look over fields to the old walled Dunbarney burial ground, however due to the wet conditions we decided not to venture down the overgrown path to have a closer look.

Continuing along the drive towards Dunbarney House we were impressed by the surrounding estate – hedgerows, stone walls and parklands all beautifully maintained. We had a brief coffee stop at the gates of the house and watched the Guinea fowl strutting around on the extensive lawn.

At 'Quarry Hall' (an immaculate L-shaped cottage) we turned left and followed a woodland path which led to the Forgandenny Road. Crossing over, we picked up a path signed 'Silver walk to Kintillo'. This lovely path led us through woodland and at one point we could see through the trees to a round 'well' house. In the 18th and 19th centuries invalids visited Pitkeathly Wells as the mineral springs there were famed for their medicinal value.

On reaching the end of the 'Silver Walk' we decided to have a brief stop for lunch before turning onto a minor road. By this time the rain was lashing down and some of us were lucky enough to get some shelter under the trees!

The final stretch of road took us along past the Kilgraston school playing fields and then onto paths that led to the main road and our parked cars.

This would have been a lovely walk had it not been for the inclement weather, however we all remained in good spirits despite being 'drookit'.

Many thanks to leaders Margaret and Irwin.

MARGARET GREER

19th June Hill Walk Ben Tulaichean from Inverlochlarig

On a very dreich Sunday, the "Famous 5" (David McK, Charlie, Robert, Chris & Tina) set off from Inverlochlarig, the site of the renowned cattle thief Rob Rob MacGregor's house, on a long track up the Inverlochlarig Burn.

Where the track ceased we turned west and headed up to the bealach between Beinn Tulaichean and Cruach Ardrain. At this point we felt like gorillas in the mist as the cloud base came right down, and visibility was at a premium. Before reaching the bealach we had to resort to whistle contact to gather everyone together. Turning south we headed up to the summit, which ultimately appeared through the mist.

Lunch was taken in a sheltered spot near the summit. We then started our descent back down to a point where we turned east to make our way back to the track we had walked in on. At this point to add to our discomfort it began to rain heavily. We finally reached the car park where there was a small shelter, which enabled all of us to change into dry clothing. More misery, as the wee beasties descended on us with a vengeance before we could get into the car – many of the beasties following us inside!

A welcome refreshment was taken at the Clachan Inn, Lochearnhead, which did much to revive our spirits after a fairly trying day in the hills.

Thanks to David (McK) and Charlie for leading, with helpful support from Robert.

TINA PANTON

26th June Walk Drummond Hill & Fort

Eleven Ramblers set out on this sunny summer morning, with a deteriorating forecast for the end of the



Black Rock viewpoint



Ramblers overlooking Glen Lyon

day. Drummond Forest Walks are popular with walkers. This was a circular walk of nine miles taking in the Black Rock viewpoint and the fort overlooking the silvery Tay. Although the route took us through mostly forest paths, every now and again we would come across viewpoints. Our coffee stop was at the Black Rock Viewpoint overlooking Kenmore and Loch Tay – a wonderful view on a sunny morning. Our next viewpoint was overlooking Glen Lyon before making our path to the fort where we had lunch.

Although not marked on the OS map, after descending from the fort another small path took us down to the road to join a route many would recognise who were on the Aberfeldy to Kenmore walk. The path continued alongside the Tay to Kenmore bridge. We enjoyed some refreshments at the Taymouth Courtyard just as the heavens opened.

A good day out with many appreciated thanks to Felicity our leader and Carol and Myra for backmarking.

KEN HEISER

10th July Stroll & Walk Tentsmuir & Morton Lochs

Twenty-four ramblers and two visitors travelled by bus to the starting point at Tayport. The weather forecast for 10th July was rather mixed and I suspect a few members of the party had been hoping for heavy rain during the morning to serve as an excuse to stay at home to watch Andy Murray taking part in the Wimbledon tennis final. However, this hope was dashed since the weather was fine as we set off from Comrie and Crieff. Sixteen members of the party opted for the walk and ten decided to go on the stroll.

Walk: We set off from the bus park near the Links Caravan Park in Tayport and walked along the south side of Tayport Heath towards Tentsmuir Point. This is a beauty spot famed for its wildlife, including red squirrels, porpoises, bottlenose dolphins and grey and common seals. Unfortunately, they were all hiding when we called. The forest trail leading south from the Point took us past the March Stone. This structure, which resembles a grave stone, was erected in 1794 as a boundary marker for salmon fishing rights (in the 16th century ‘march’ was a word used to mean boundary). In the late 18th century the location of the Stone would be close to the high water mark.

A short distance south of the March Stone is the Ice House which was built by salmon fishermen in the 19th century to store ice. The ice was used to preserve the fish before shipping it south. The rain began to fall as we had a coffee break at the Ice House and it continued for the remainder of the walk. We continued, partly on the sand dunes, to the Tentsmuir car park. Here, many members of the party augmented their packed lunch provisions by purchasing tasty crepes from the resident crepe stall. It was agreed that this was a highlight of the walk.

The final attraction on the walk was the visit to the Morton Lochs. This provided our only glimpse of the varied Tentsmuir wildlife: we gained a close-up view of waterfowl, including a pair of swans with their cygnets.

This was an interesting walk in a beautiful part of the Fife coast. Thanks to Irwin, Stephanie and Myra for leading the walk.

Stroll: The stroll took a shorter route from Tentsmuir Point to the Morton Lochs. The highlight of the stroll was the sighting of what was thought to be a young sea eagle that flew along the shoreline near Tentsmuir Point during our coffee break. An agreement could not be reached, but after further investigation I discovered that the Tentsmuir pair of sea eagles hatched two chicks around 4th May. The chicks take approximately ten weeks to fledge so they would be able to fly from early July. After scrutinising images of young sea eagles in flight I am now fairly sure that we did have this excellent sighting. Therefore, well done Dan, Brenda and Felicity for your convictions, and my apologies for expressing doubts.

Thanks to Felicity and Nan for guiding us through the forest.

DAVID SLOAN (Walk) and MARGARET SLOAN (Stroll)

17th July Hill Walk Carn an Tuirc & Carn a' Claise

Seven intrepid Ramblers defied the forecast and set off for Glenshee. After the drive from Comrie and Crieff, and a comfort break at Glenshee Ski Centre, we set off about 10.15 from the almost hidden car park straight on to the approach to Carn an Tuirc under heavy skies. The walk in was pleasant and warm along a pretty burn with an impressive waterfall – we had to stop to peel off a layer quite early on.

A steep climb followed by a scramble up scree led to an easy walk to the first summit. After a group photo, we moved briskly on. Low cloud meant we could not enjoy the fine views but Charlie painted a vivid picture of the surrounding hills and corries for us.

A short break preceded our easy walk to the second summit, encountering other walkers on the way. We sheltered from the stiff cold wind behind a wall at the top of Carn a' Claise to have lunch. While we were lunching, runners came past one way and then back again! Poor visibility continued and rain came as we started our descent. However, things improved as we descended – the rain stopped,



Ramblers at the summit

cloud lifted and we could see far hills and glens. A very comfortable stroll over broad grassy slopes brought us back along the other side of the burn to the car park.

Along the way we encountered ptarmigan, black grouse, rabbits and deer. Finally, we all headed for Glenshee Ski Centre for refreshments and a chat before driving home. Thanks to Charlie, David and Tina, who kept spirits high and led us on the right track throughout.

CHRIS WHITE

31st July Walk Loch Turret and the Blue Craigs

Sixteen enthusiastic walkers met at the Loch Turret dam to join Ken Heiser for the Comrie Fortnight Chairman's Hill Walk over Choinneachain Hill. [Ed: Ken was leading this instead of Irwin, because our chairman's knee was too sore]. After a spell of pleasant warm weather it was disappointing to feel a smurr of rain as we headed north on the undulating track alongside Loch Turret reservoir. Fortunately, the rain relented as we steadily ascended on the broad track towards the upland plateau between the higher tops of Auchnafree Hill and the Blue Craigs.

As we got higher, the view across the loch to Ben Chonzie, above the upper reaches of Glen Turret, had lost the cloud cover that had concealed it earlier. As the gradient relented, we joined another track that skirted around the flanks of Ton Eich. In order to motivate the group to continue after a chilly lunch break (was this really July?), Ken played us his recording of the Comrie Pipe band playing a stirring tune, which he had recorded the previous evening in Melville Square. This seemed to have the desired effect and, after taking in some brief views north to the summit cairn of Auchnafree Hill and part of the Lawers range, we approached the prominent cairn just below the summit of Choinneachain Hill. This gave a great panoramic view over the length of Strathearn from Ben Halton to the hills of Fife. From here it was a short climb to highest point of the day – King Kenneth's Cairn – that gave us views of rain showers passing over the hills to the north and west.

The descent south down the broad ridge gave good views into Corrie Barvick with Blue Craigs behind whilst, on the other side, slopes of blooming heather gave interest. The track led us down eventually to our starting point in convivial company and gradually improving visibility that gave us views to Ben Vorlich.

Many thanks to Ken, assisted by Felicity Martin, for leading this walk of around 12 miles with considerable ascent.

BOB TURNER

Future Walks

21st August HILL WALK Ben Vorlich (985m) 6+ Miles

This is a replacement walk after the leaders did a recce of Ben Starav (1078m) and Glas Beinn Mhor and found the route too hard and long to lead a group on. The Ramblers haven't done this local Munro for a few years, so we decided at the latest committee meeting it would be good to do while the heather is blooming. The route starts at Ardvorlich on Loch Earn following initially a track then a good mountain path up the south ridge. The final haul is on a path that zigzags up a steep scree slope to the trig point, which is an excellent viewpoint. The return may be by a different route.

Depart Crieff Coop car park 07:45 Depart Comrie School car park 08:00

Meet at Ardvorlich east entrance at 08:25.

Pay Drivers £1

Leaders: Robert Burns (670408), Dave McLeod, Charlie Panton

28th August WALK Loch Shandra 8 Miles

This is a new walk to the Ramblers. The meeting point is at the Forestry Commission car park at Freuchies just before Kirkton of Glenisla Village (Grid Ref NO 224 607) which is reached by taking the B954 at Alyth and joining the B951 towards Kirkton of Glenisla then taking a right just before the village. This signposted for Glenmaskle Lodge. The walk starts by taking a path up to Loch Shandra then following a rising path to Auchintaple Loch. Beyond this loch there is a steep incline through a wooded area to a hill of 455m which will provide magnificent views over the area. From there the walk descends down to Craighead Farm before joining the initial path north of Loch Shandra and back to the starting point.

Depart Comrie School car park 09:00 Depart Crieff Coop car park 09:15

Meet 11.00 at the Forestry Commission car park at Freuchies as stated above.

Pay Drivers £5.50

Leaders: Margaret McVicar (670989), Val Callan, Ken Heiser

11th September STROLL Loch Ard & Ghleannain Loch 4.5 miles

A pleasant circuit in the Trossachs through mixed forestry and beside pretty lochans and larger Loch Ard. The route passes wildlife sound boxes and sculptures with riddles. It uses forest tracks and paths with some short steep sections.

Leave Comrie School car park at 10:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 10:15

Meet at Loch Ard Forestry Commission car park at 11:30

Pay drivers £4.50

Leaders: Margaret Shankland (670114), Robert Harrison, Ken Heiser

18th September HILL WALK Ben Cruachan (1126m) 9 miles

Ben Cruachan is one of the finest Munros in the southern Highlands, its pointed peak towering above its rocky satellites giving great views, south over Loch Awe to and west along Loch Etive to the to the coast. The ridge walk to Stob Diamh makes a great circuit of the Cruachan reservoir, which feeds an underground hydro power station. Steep and rocky paths with a small section of easy scrambling. The descent is a grassy slope which can be boggy in the final sections.

Leave Crieff Coop Car Park at 7:45 and Comrie School car park at at 8.00

Meet at layby on A85 at Falls of Cruachan railway station 9:30.

Pay drivers £6.00

Leaders: Charlie Panton (655337), Robert Burns, Dave McLeod

25th September WALK Callander to Glen Artney 11 miles

This is a remote and beautiful walk, over the moorland on old drovers' roads and estate tracks south of Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin, to the head of Glen Artney. A new bridge is being built over Keltly Burn and should be open by the time of the walk. The bus will drop walkers off below Braeleny Farm above Callander and pick them up at Dalrannoch.

Bus will depart at Comrie School car park at 09:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 09:15

Bus costs £6.00 – please book a place on the bus using the form on page 15 of the newsletter

Leaders: Myra Robertson (670166), Margaret McVicar, Val Callan

9th October STROLL Camperdown, Templeton & Clatto 6 miles

A very pleasant circular walk through Dundee's Country Park on good paths. Visit Camperdown House, Birkhill Woods and Clatto Reservoir, where there should be a good variety of bird life. There is a nice cafe at the end of the walk.

To get to the start point leave the A90 Kingsway road in Dundee towards Coupar Angus (first turn-off) onto the A923. At the next roundabout take the first turn-off then first right into Camperdown Park. Ignore the first two car parks on the right and instead use a third which is on the left just before reaching Camperdown House in the heart of the park.

Leave Comrie School Car park at 10:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 10:15

Meet Camperdown Park 11:15

Pay drivers £5.00

Leaders Irwin Keith (652541), Ann Morrison, Nan Brown

23rd October HILL WALK Ben Vrackie (841m) 6 miles

The summit of this Corbett is a great viewpoint. The ascent follows good paths through woodland, open moorland and past picturesque Loch a' Choire. Well made path with some steep sections with steps on the final ascent of Ben Vrackie. To reach the start, turn off the A9 at Pitlochry and drive into the town centre, where you turn right onto the A924. After 0.75 miles, turn left immediately after the Moulin Hotel then turn first right and continue to the small car park at the end of the road.

Leave Comrie School car park at 8:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 8:15

Meet Ben Vrackie car park just north west of Moulin 9:15

Pay drivers £5.00

Leaders: David McLeod (01786 880984), Robert Burns, Ian Buchan

30th October WALK River Tay, Dunkeld 6 miles

This walk takes advantage of two bridges across the Tay: the Jubilee Bridge carrying the A9 and Telford's stone bridge of 1809 in Dunkeld. This will enable us to make a circuit up one bank and down the other. We will pass many big trees with fascinating histories, including and the Parent Larch in the Dunkeld House Tree Trail and Neil Gow's oak near Inver.

Leave Comrie School car park at 9:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 9:15

Meet North car park (pay & display) on Atholl Street in Dunkeld 10:00

Pay drivers £4.00

Leaders: Felicity Martin (670987), Irwin Keith, Stephanie Blaauw

13th November STROLL Muthill to Crieff 5 miles

Heading east out of Muthill this walk leads through Sallyardoch wood and the disused railway line to the River Earn, to return upstream into Crieff.

Leave Comrie School Car park at 10:30 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 10:45

Catch no. 47 bus from RS McColl on Crieff High Street at 11:05 for Muthill

Leaders: Val Callan (653863), Myra Robertson, Margaret Shankland

27th November WALK Atholl Woods, Dunkeld 7 miles

This circuit to the north of Dunkeld of Atholl Estate's woods takes in Polney Loch below Craig a' Barns then angles steadily uphill for great views over the Tay valley. Beyond Rotmell Wood it comes to Mill Dam then returns downhill on a wide track to the car park. Fallow deer and crossbills are often seen on this route. To get to the start, drive through Dunkeld, turn right onto A923 for Blairgowrie then take second left track uphill (after Cally Sawmill). Go slowly up the bumpy track then turn left into the walkers' car park.

Leave Comrie School car park at 9:00 and Crieff Coop Car Park at 9:15

Meet Cally car park, Dunkeld 10:00.

Pay drivers £4.00

Leaders: Margaret McVicar (670989), Carol Buchan, Robert Harrison

11th December STROLL Christmas Stroll

Put the date in your diary! Our chairman Irwin Keith will lead us on a mystery walk to our lunch venue at Crieff Golf Club. Please complete the Christmas Lunch Booking Form on the next page and return it to the Treasurer with your payment.

Leave Comrie School car park at 10:00; Meet Crieff Golf Club car park 10:15

Pay drivers £1.00

Leaders: Irwin Keith (652541) and some elves

Christmas Lunch Booking Form

Lunch at 12.30 for 13.00 on Sunday, 11th December 2016
at Crieff Golf Club

I/We wish to attend the Christmas Lunch at Crieff Golf Club on 11th December 2016

The names of the attendees are:

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ £10 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.

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Closing date: Sunday 4th December 2014.

The lunch will consist of a choice of two soups, turkey filled rolls with tea or coffee and Christmas mince pies to finish. The bar within the golf club will be open for the sale of drinks.

Please indicate any allergies, dietary requirements, vegetarian, etc below.

Name	Requirements

The Christmas Stroll will start at 10.15 from the Crieff Golf Club car park.

Bus Booking Form

25th September WALK Callander to Glen Artney 11 miles

Please reserveseats on the bus for this walk. The bus will pick up Ramblers at **Comrie School car park 7.00** and **Crieff Coop car park at 07.15**. At the end of the walk the bus will take walkers back to Crieff and Comrie.

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

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

Ken Heiser
18 Polinard
Comrie PH6 2HJ

Closing date: Wednesday 21st September 2016.

Cheques to be made to "Strathearn Ramblers".

Tick the box if you wish to be picked up at Crieff Coop car park at 09:00

Tick the box if you wish it be picked up at Comrie School car park at 09:15

Names of passengers

.....

The Strathearn Rambler

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 welcomes contributions to and comments about the Strathearn Rambler. Please send in walk reports as soon as possible after the event (while the day is fresh in the mind!) – by email or on paper if you don't use email. Photographs should be sent as separate email attachments, not embedded in a text file.

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