



Strathearn Rambler

Autumn 2016

Issue no. 75

Editor: Felicity Martin



Chairman's Report

In the last few days the weather has turned from the bright, dry conditions of autumn to a chillier November. The leaves which provided such glorious colour throughout October are quickly being blown to the ground. The birches and rowans were first to succumb to the change in the weather with the oaks and sycamores following soon after. For rambles this has been a magnificent period with the some great walks and strolls blanketed with the red and golden colours of autumn. I must commend the committee for choice of rambles during this period and I hope that you find the walks over the next period as interesting.

The weekend away in Arran at the beginning of September was, by all accounts, a success. The hotel made us most welcome and even featured us on their Facebook page. Being Arran the weather was variable changing from Caribbean sunshine to dreich mist in less than half a day then changing back again before the day was out, and that was in one part of the island. Can I thank the walk leaders for their efforts and everybody who joined us in making it a most enjoyable weekend.

We are in the final stages of securing a hotel for the weekend away in 2017. We hope to be going north this time but as there has not been final confirmation by the hotel, due to the manager's holidays, the detail of the weekend away will have to be sent out separately after this Newsletter is published. Needless to say, the weekend away is always a highlight of the rambling year with new experiences, interesting new walks and laughs throughout.

At the end of this Newsletter is the booking form for the Christmas Stroll and I expect to see many of you out for the stroll prior to the Christmas Lunch and for those who have never experienced this stroll there are usually some surprises along the way with Santa's little helpers always in attendance. Come along and be silly for a couple of hours!

Finally may I give you early warning of our AGM at Comrie Golf Club for Friday 17 March 2017. If you wish to join the committee please contact myself or other committee members to indicate your willingness to stand. It is your club and new blood is always very welcome. Also, if you wish to bring forward an issue, which you think will improve the efficiency of the Ramblers, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can consider it as part of the agenda.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Lunch.

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

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)

Mobile phones of walk leaders

Your committee has decided that walk leaders should put each others' mobile phone numbers in their own phone, so that (assuming reception!) they can contact each other if the group becomes strung out or they are separated for any reason, for instance when dealing with a casualty.

It also makes sense for all walkers to have a note of the leader's mobile number. From now on, the newsletter will list the mobile number of the main leader. For your own welfare when coming on a walk please add the leader's number to your phone. That way we'll find it harder to lose you!!

Christmas Stroll and Lunch



Sunday, 11th December 2016

Our chairman Irwin Keith will lead us on a mystery walk to Crieff Golf Club, where we will arrive at 12.30 for a 13.00 lunch.

If you want to come to the lunch (whether strolling or not), please complete the booking form on page 16 of this newsletter and get it to our treasurer with your payment.

Walk reports

If you are the lucky person who 'volunteers' to write a walk report, please do not bother with any fancy formatting, as that will only have to be redone when it is laid out in the newsletter. Simply type up your words and email them to the editor at felicity@felicitymartin.co.uk.

Please do not embed photos in a document, instead send them as separate .jpg attachments. And please do not downsize them much or let your email program make them very small, as they need to have lots of pixels to look good when printed. If you send them at full size or large, they can be reduced to the required size when the newsletter is put together.

Your editor can handle various text formats, including Word (.doc and .docx), Rich Text (.rtf), Plain Text (.txt), and Portable Document Format (.pdf).

Hand written reports on paper to Felicity Martin, Ellangowan, 4 Polinard, Comrie PH6 2HJ are also acceptable if you don't have access to a computer. For future reference, these details are at the end of The Strathearn Rambler.

Walk Reports

2nd August

Comrie Fortnight Stroll

St Fillans to Comrie

On a slightly dull but dry day, 31 enthusiastic walkers met at Comrie School car park. As there were so many walkers Ken Heiser kindly did two trips with the Co-Co bus to get us all safely to the start of the stroll. The start was The Four Seasons Hotel in St Fillans - a very picturesque place to congregate, looking over Loch Earn. We were going to be strolling along the new core path which is part of the Three Saints Way. Our group was led by Myra Robertson and was a good mix of ladies and gents and of all ages, with our youngest walker being just 8 years old.

As we set off, we took a narrow path, along the back of the hotel and passed many of the houses within St Fillans. After about a mile we came off the path at St Fillans Caravan Park and joined the new path which follows the route of the old railway. The first section of the route out of the village takes on a slight incline along a tarmac path - excellent for both walking and cycling. This path was wider than our previous one so we were able to chat along the way, meeting new friends and enjoying the scenery.

Shortly after leaving the village we came across the 'infamous' painted crocodile nestled on the hillside. Continuing along the path we passed under the main road to bring us out onto the old railway bridge.

As we continued along the slightly stoner path we were approaching the halfway point and time for lunch! A spot near the river and a short distance from Dalchonzie was chosen. A few walkers returned to Comrie at this point, some by foot and some on the minibus.

After a lovely al fresco lunch 15 of us resumed the stroll. Passing Dalchonzie, the views towards Comrie and the surrounding hills were lovely. The recently resurfaced road made this section of the stroll pleasant under foot. Myra was congratulated for providing a port-a-loo on this section of the stroll!! We continued along the road heading towards the Ross Bridge with plenty of chat and laughs along the way. We finished the stroll 7 miles later at the school car park. We had stayed dry, enjoyed some lovely scenery and paths, and walked quite a few thousand steps. A very enjoyable stroll.

WENDY TAYLOR

14th August

Stroll

**Towers of Alloa
& Clackmannan**

In 1833 in the quaint town of Clackmannan, a boulder was placed high on top of a tall stone. "Why?" asked 14 inquisitive Ramblers. A plaque explained. "The stone or clack originally placed at the foot of Lookaboote Brae, was sacred to the pre-Christian deity 'Mannan' and is an unique relic of pagan times." And not just any old deity - Manau or Manannan mac Lir was an Irish sea-god and the king and founder of the Manx people (Isle of Man), according to Celtic legend. Behind the clack was a tall belfry tower, remnant of the 1592 Tolbooth, built as a court and jail; also the Mercat Cross, to which prisoners were chained.



Clackmannan Tolbooth

Leaving behind historical buildings, Sheriff's house and fine Parish church, we took the grassy path up King's Seat Hill to the magnificent sandstone Clackmannan Tower. We looked at the leaning walls, reminiscent of Pisa. "Did our eyes deceive us?". "Not at all", said our knowledgeable leader, Margaret McVicar. "It's mining that has caused its subsidence." The tower was surrounded by fabulous panoramic views – to the River Forth on one side and to the Ochil hills on the other.



Clackmannan Tower

The information board revealed that in 1359 King David II (son of Robert the Bruce) gave this land to a kinsman, another Robert Bruce, who built the tower. It remained in the family for over 400 years. In 1787, Catherine Bruce 'knighted' Robert Burns here, claiming that she had more right than 'some people', i.e. King George IV!

After lunch, we continued our stroll through the countryside until we came to Alloa and its Tower, run by the National Trust. We did not go in but read the notice outside. Alloa Tower was originally the seat of the Erskine family. They had links to the Scottish Crown and cared for both Mary Queen of Scots and James VI, when they were children. Over the centuries, they also helped Alloa to prosper in trade and industry. From a previous visit, I know that there are some fine paintings and artefacts inside, a fantastic view from the rooftop and even some dungeons!

From here, we made our way back to the Tolbooth at Clackmannan. However, the day was not quite over. On the return journey to Strathearn, we stopped off at Bridge of Allan for some welcome ice cream! Our sincere thanks go to Margaret McVicar and Robert Harrison for planning and leading such a fascinating historical walk.

FIONA BRYCE

21st August Hill Walk Ben Vorlich

The originally proposed hill walk up Ben Starav was considered by Charlie, David and Robert, who did the recce, to be too long a day and too hard a walk. So 11 of us, including two guests, left Comrie on a beautiful morning and arrived at Ardvorlich House in slightly drippy conditions, ready to climb Ben Vorlich.

The weather forecast was good so we went off quite cheerfully and enjoyed beautiful views over Loch Earn. It is a well made path and so the walk up was mostly enjoyable. However, when we reached the top the mist was down and it was very cold, which spoiled things a bit.

There was a sense of deja vu when David was a bit held up with one of our number. As he was carrying Helen's sandwiches again, poor Robert was sent up to the top like a Pizza Delivery boy carrying the sandwich box. Anyway, we all made it to the top and then tackled the steep descent to the bealach, between Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin where more sandwiches were eaten.

After lunch at the bealach our group split in two - one returning to the cars at Ardvorlich while the other set out aiming for the summit of Stuc a' Chroin. The easier route up was to avoid the rocky scramble but instead we took the steep gravel path up the grassy gully to the plateau. On the way we passed above a small herd of wild goats. On reaching the plateau there is a steady upward path to the summit. Needless to say again there was no view just thick mist.

We returned to the bealach and followed the grassy, wet moorland path around the flank of Ben Vorlich to rejoin the main track down. Nearing Ardvorlich we could hear a generator humming. The old mill house has been removed and replaced by a stone built generator house, part of a local small hydro scheme, the third we have seen on this year's hill walks.

The photo shows that the weather improved for a time on the way down enabling us to enjoy the view of Ben Lawers etc., before another shower of rain came through. Thanks from us all to the Leaders, Robert and the two Daves.



View over Loch Earn

HELEN MCLEOD

28th August Walk Loch Shandra

There was a good turnout of Ramblers for this walk and, as there were not enough cars, Margaret McVicar very kindly offered to go back to Comrie with Ken for her car and we were soon on our way. The meeting place was the car park at Freuchies where more Ramblers were waiting to join us. The walk started by taking the path by the edge of a wood, from where we turned off at the southern edge of Loch Shandra and continued up past Auchintaple Loch.

Beyond the Loch we walked through a wooded area. We proceeded upwards to the summit of a hill from where the views were breathtaking. We continued south downhill, going through a small wood and turning towards a path passing unknown ruins at Craignity, from where we retraced our steps to Loch Shandra and back to the starting point.

Approaching the end of the walk the rain started which proved to be a damp finish to an otherwise excellent day. Many thanks to Margaret McVicar, Val and Ken for leading the walk.

LIZ SMITH

11th September Stroll

Loch Ard

On a sunny, fairly warm Sunday morning eleven of us drove over to Aberfoyle to start our circular stroll around Loch Ard. The track through the forest was dry and soft underfoot due to pine needles and fallen leaves. The colours had not quite started to turn but the sky was blue and this reflected in the Loch.

We stopped for our coffee break looking up the loch which was very tranquil with no bird song just ramblers chirping away. Further on by a beach-like clearing at the edge of the loch we stopped to



A few capers

take in the views and mainly because there was a large fallen trunk lying there which looked just right for sitting (or standing) on. There were a few capers but luckily nobody actually landed in the water.

We continued on the green trail away from Loch Ard, surprisingly without meeting many people, just the odd dog walker. The leaders lead us to the ideal lunch spot looking down Ghleannain Loch.

Unfortunately the table and benches were occupied by some younger people so we had to find another lunch area further round the loch which was just as good as we were not disturbed by other people, only a very friendly wet dog. This more secluded area allowed for some lively chat and comment mostly directed at Ken and Irwin. After lunch it was an easy downward stroll back to the car park where it was decided to return to Mhor 84 for a quick cup of tea.

The travellers in the Keith's car arrived later than the others as they decided to take the scenic route over the Duke's Pass back to Mhor 84 where they were greeted by the largest meringue known to man being devoured enthusiastically by Ken and Nan. Thanks to the leaders Margaret Shankland, Robert and Ken for a lovely stroll in the beautiful Trossachs.

PAT KEITH

18th September Hill Walk

Ben Cruachan

There were eight in our party and conditions at the start were warm, clear and sunny. The walk began at 09:30 from a small car parking area before the train halt. Ducking under the railway via a tunnel (designed for very short people), we proceeded up brick and concrete steps and onto a well defined path, climbing steadily through mixed woodland. The conditions remained excellent for walking.

Once through the woodland after about 1km, the climbing started to level off, taking us into open moorland where visibility remained good. The path climbed gradually and was well defined, but a few diversions around very boggy bits were required.

After approximately 2km walking, we reached a road and followed it to the foot of the dam. The dam was climbed using a conveniently installed ladder and visibility remained good. Passing

through a gate on the dam's the west side we took a shortcut across the moor to rejoin the track; as we headed north west along the track conditions underfoot were dry and fairly level.

A coffee break was taken at approximately 11:00 prior to the ascent to the bealach. Initially the ascent was fairly gentle but got steeper and remained boggy as we climbed; by the time we got to the bealach the weather had closed in, full water proofs were on and visibility was poor. Conditions remained thus pretty much for the rest of the day.

The final climb to the summit started on a defined path that became less distinct the higher it got, finally petering out into a boulder field – the only thing we could be certain about was which way was up. We reached the summit at approximately 13:15, had a very rapid lunch before heading back down retracing our steps the best we could. Visibility remained poor until the track was reached at 400m.



Cruachan Dam

The return to the car park was straight forward, skirting round the dam, over the moorland and back into the woodland reaching the cars at 16:20. Thanks to the leaders Charlie, Robert and Dave for an enjoyable but dreich walk.

MAX PENFOLD

25th September Walk

Callander to Glen Artney

The weather looked promising as we waited on Sweeney's bus with rain forecast for later in the day. We set off slightly late due to confusion over the bus times, but a large group of 24 of us were looking forward to this linear 11-mile walk led by Myra, Margaret & Val.



New bridges over Keltie Water and a tributary

Alan the bus driver dropped us off below Braeleny Farm and we set off up the track. We crossed two substantial new bridges before stopping for a coffee break at the deserted cottage overlooking the reservoir, with lovely views up Gleann a' Chroin towards Stuc a' Chroin.

We continued on the sometimes boggy track - due to the persistent rain the day before - with lovely views all round until we reached yet another new bridge. This was over the Allt an Dubh Choirein with stunning views up Gleann an Dubh Choirein to mist swirling round the tops of Stuc a' Chroin

and Ben Vorlich. We decided to stop here for lunch as it was such a nice spot with lots of rowan trees heavy with bright red berries - a portent for a hard winter??

We set off again on the track which soon joined the metalled Glen Artney road, which we followed down to Dalchruin where we crossed yet another bridge, this time over the Water of Ruchill, and followed a path down the river that then reached a track leading to Dalrannoch where we waited on the bus. We had been lucky with the weather with sunshine and only a couple of small showers, but sheltering under the trees the rain came hammering down - we finished the walk just in time!

This was a superb walk with great company, thanks to the leaders Myra, Margaret & Val. Also a special thanks to Alan the bus driver whose bus broke down in Muthill after he dropped us off; he collected everyone's bags and carried them to the replacement bus!

I hope I got all the place names right, Myra was a mine of information!

FIONA PENFOLD



Rowans and Allt an Dubh Choirein

9th October Stroll Camperdown, Templeton and Clatto

On a sunny morning four ramblers left Comrie and met up with four others in Crieff before travelling on to Camperdown Park, Dundee. Once 'kitted-up' the eight of us set off at a leisurely pace through the park, soon coming to a halt when we spotted a majestic Wellingtonia (sequoia), one of several we saw along our way, as well as many other beautiful trees, some of which were already turning colour. Officially there are over 190 species of tree in the park, but we didn't count them all en route!

Very shortly afterwards we stopped again to admire Camperdown House, a fine 19th century mansion, the largest remaining "Greek Revival" style house in Scotland, part of which is used as a club house by Camperdown Golf Club and the rest of which, regrettably, is rarely open to the public. We followed a wooded path leading to an exit where we crossed the A923 and entered Templeton Woods through a gap in the boundary, aptly described by Margaret Birks as a 'Hobbit Hole'.

Our route through this area of mixed woodland afforded us lovely views of the Sidlaw Hills, which were bathed in sunshine. Lunch was eaten under the veranda of the Templeton Woods Visitor Centre where we admired murals depicting various woodland birds. Adequately fed and watered we continued on our way, passing several wooden artefacts, one being a brightly painted totem pole and another a set of wooden 'tubular bells', on which Pat gave an outstanding performance of 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'.

Just before leaving these woods we passed by a huge water tower where we suddenly became aware of a significant police presence. Had someone reported eight suspicious-looking characters

walking through the woods...? Making a hasty exit we continued on to Clatto Country Park where we strolled around the reservoir, noticing the usual complement of mallards and motley assortment of gulls, but also a pair of swans, some moorhens and a number of mergansers, the last of which were having great success in their attempts at fishing, judging by the number of times they surfaced with 'tiddlers' in their bills.

Retracing our steps back to Templeton Woods, we took a different, but equally pleasant, path back to Camperdown. Once back at our starting point we realised with regret that the fair being held in the park was intended for young children rather than the young at heart, so we passed by and consoled ourselves with coffee and cake at the park café.

On our way back to our cars some of the group demonstrated their fitness and agility on the equipment in the 'Outdoor Gym', thereby using up some of the calories they had just consumed. As far as we know this stroll was a 'first' for Strathearn Ramblers and is certainly one worth repeating. Many thanks to our leaders Irwin and Ann (Morrison) for all their hard work in 'reccying' the stroll and not leading us astray on the maze of woodland paths.

BRENDA SIMMONS

23rd October Hill Walk Ben Vrackie

As we drove through Amulree, in the rain, it did occur to me that I should have stayed in bed, but thankfully the day improved to be clear but cold. There were six walkers plus Charlie who only came as far the loch – he then went into Pitlochry – maybe for some early Christmas shopping?

We all started off at the car park round from the Moulin Inn. We set off through the forest and into the open moorland, leapfrogging a party of four on the way up – we did get to the top before them.

We followed the path to Loch a Choire at the foot of Ben Vrackie, then climbed steeply upwards on a very good path to the top. Good visibility and great autumn colours with views to Loch Tummel, Glenshee and beyond.

We then headed northwest, following the ridge and slowly descending through the heather until we met the Bealach path from Killicrankie. We followed this until we joined up with the main path again.

It was then a short stroll back to the cars and the Moulin Inn to quench our thirst. A nice day out – not too long but very enjoyable. Not quite a Munro but at 841m still an achievement. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers. We were a small select group.

CAROL BUCHAN

30th October Walk River Tay, Dunkeld

Twenty Ramblers were lucky enough to be led on this amazing 6-mile walk on such a beautiful autumn day. The area around Dunkeld must be one of the best places to be in the world in autumn. There were so many trees to see and history surrounding them to hear about from our leaders Felicity and Stephanie.

Numerous endangered species have been planted in this area by the Perth and Kinross iCONic Project. We also saw a 400-year-old oak tree near the Dunkeld Hotel and the famous Douglas Firs. The Parent Larch was another tree with a fascinating story which was planted over 250 years ago. It is the sole survivor of five planted and its seed has created millions of larch trees all over Perthshire's hillsides.

The walk started at the main car park in Dunkeld and although the recce had been done in an anti-clockwise direction, it was decided to do it clockwise today to take advantage of the sunshine at lunchtime. We therefore crossed the bridge in Dunkeld and started off the walk munching apples in the Community Orchard. This was never going to be a fast walk!

A lovely lunch stop at the Rock Pool where many of us could have spent an hour or so in the afternoon sunshine. The walk was over all too soon at 2pm and everyone went their separate ways (mainly to local cafes it has to be said).

Thanks as always to our leaders for doing the recce and taking us all on such a wonderful walk and of course to Irwin for being such a good back-marker.

LESLEY WRIGHT



*top: Reflections in the Tay
middle: Lunch stop at Rock Pool
bottom: Riverbank path*

Future Walks

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; mob. 07513 431237), Carol Buchan, Robert Harrison

11th December STROLL Christmas Stroll & Lunch

Our chairman Irwin Keith will lead us on a mystery walk to our lunch venue at Crieff Golf Club. There will be the usual fun along the way. Please complete the Christmas Lunch Booking Form on the page 16 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; Lunch is at 13:00

Leaders: Irwin Keith (652541; mob. 07816 182730) and some elves

8th January STROLL Comrie Croft & back 5.25 miles

This stroll will take one route out and another back. The outward leg will take us via West Lodge and the redwood avenue to Conifera, then past Balmenoch waterfall and the back of Lawers to Comrie Croft. After enjoying some shelter for our packed lunches, we'll return to Conifera then continue through Fordie Woods, over the stone bridge and past Happy Valley burial ground before returning through Laggan Park. We'll take any hills slowly.

Leave Crieff Coop Car Park at 9:45 and Comrie School car park at 10:00

Walk starts from Comrie School car park at 10:00

Leaders: Felicity Martin (670987; mob. 07801 896439), Ann Morrison, Margaret Shankland

29th January WALK Comrie to Crieff via Ochertyre 8 miles

The plan for this walk is to go from Comrie across the golf course to Conifera then behind Lawers to Comrie Croft. From there to the old quarry and east across the moorland to Craig Vannie. Then behind Ochertyre and down to the distillery and into Macrosty Park. There is a deer fence with locked gates on the route and the recce will look for a way round this, so the route may change somewhat from this description.

Leave Crieff Coop Car Park at 8:45 and Comrie School car park at 9:00

Walk starts from Comrie School car park at 9:00

Leaders: Robert Burns (670408 mob. 07706 952172), Myra Robertson, Margaret McVicar

12th February STROLL St Fillans to Comrie 7 miles

A linear stroll using the new core path out of St Fillans, on a route which is destined to be part of the Three Saints Way. Initially on tarmac, with views of the Crocodile and Dundurn hill fort, the route passes under the A85 at Tynreoch then continues on a good track along the disused railway line to Dalchonzie. It returns to Comrie past Aberuchill Castle and Ross Bridge.

Bus will depart Crieff Coop Car Park at 9:45 and Comrie School car park at 10:00

Bus costs £3 – please book a place on the bus using the form on page 17 of the newsletter

Leaders Myra Roberston (670166; mob. 07522 690289), Majorie Bourne, Pat Keith

**26th February WALK Crieff to Auchingarrich 9 miles
via Knock Mary**

A linear walk from Crieff along the high ground on the south side of Strathearn with super views over farmland and wooded hills to rugged mountains. There are no long hills but the walk does have several ups and downs, progressively climbing 350m over its length. The route passes the mast on Torlum as it traverses the northern slopes of it and Lurgan Hill, before descending through woods to Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre.

We will be doing car shuttles between start and finish for this walk.

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

Meet at Crieff Visitor Centre at 9:20

Pay drivers £1

Leaders: Irwin Keith (652541; mob. 07816 182730), Felicity Martin, Margaret Birks

12th March STROLL Blackness Castle & back 5.25 miles

This coastal route to formidable Blackness Castle offers impressive views across the Forth; the return is made the same way. The stroll starts at Bo'ness and passes through the village of Blackness, which was formed as a port to serve the royalty in residence at nearby Linlithgow until superseded by Bo'ness in the 17th century. The castle was built in the 1440s as a lordly residence for the Crichtons, one of Scotland's more powerful families. It is now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland, entry is Adult: £5.50, Concession: £4.40 and gives access to the towers and curtain wall for sweeping views of the Firth of Forth and its rail and road bridges.

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

Meet at Industrial estate behind Carriden Parish Church, Bo'ness at 11:15

Directions: Exit the M9 at Junction 5 and take the A905 then the A904 into Bo'ness, following it along the seaward edge of Bo'ness to Carriden, which is about a mile past the harbour and Steam Railway. Where the road bends right, just before the church, go straight on (a left turn off the A904) onto a road signed Waste Water Treatment Works. Go straight along here, past industrial units, and park near the end (grid ref. NT 021812).

Pay drivers £5

Leaders Carol Buchan (650606; mob. 07523 088613), Robert Harrison, Ann Morrison

**26th March WALK Loch Leven: Burleigh Sands 10 miles
to Lochleven Mill**

This walk will make an almost complete circuit clockwise of Loch Leven, only leaving out the section past Kinross. At this time of year there should be thousands of migratory birds on the loch and the walk passes several hides, so bring binoculars. There are several points of interest, including the beach at Burleigh, the River Leven Sluice House and Vane Farm RSPB reserve. The final 4 miles are on the new section of path, which passes a splendid viewpoint feature at East Brackley.

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

Meet at Burleigh Sands car park at 10:00

Pay drivers £4.00

Directions: Take the A822 through Muthill, turning left after Bishop's Bridge onto the A823 to Gleneagles. Continue over the A9 and through Glen Devon. At Yetts o' Muckart turn left onto the A91 and follow it to Milnathort, where you go straight over the mini roundabout then right on the A911. After 1 mile turn right for Kinross and Burleigh Sands car park is on the left in about 500m. *Before leaving Strathearn the leader will arrange for some cars to be left at the finish; to go there first turn right in Milnathort, continue south through Kinross and turn left into Lochleven Mill.*

Leaders: Dave McKeggie (652289; mob. 07901 706177), Carol Buchan, Ian Buchan

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.

