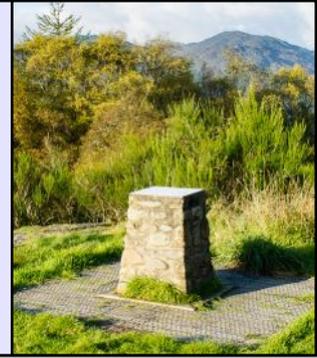


Strathearn Rambler

Winter 2018

Issue no. 80

Editor: Felicity Martin



Chairman's Report

I hope you had a good festive period and are all geared up for our walks in 2018. Recently the weather has been cold but fresh and very invigorating whilst walking. I hope you have taken advantage of these conditions. The January and February walks have reflected this and have been excellent in their variety and just the correct distance.

The committee have worked hard to get a first cut of the walks for 2018 but as is always the case these walks can and will be changed if any member has a favourite walk they wish to be included in the walking schedule. Personally I hope that members who may not have led a walk recently come forward with their suggestions and their availability to lead a walk which will take some pressure off our regular leaders.

The Christmas lunch appeared to be a very successful day filled with laughter, mulled wine and exercising of little used vocal chords. We have to thank Ken and Jan for providing the venue, and Jan and Anne Kay for setting up the drinks and nibbles and tidying up after we left. This year the bakers cut back on their production of biscuits, Christmas pies and cakes which was sensible as Andrew at Auchingarrich went to town with the Christmas lunch. Especially welcome was the cup of drinking chocolate when we



arrived after the chilly walk up from Ken's garden.

This year our Weekend Away is in Dumfries, a part of the country we have never visited before. Personally I have always enjoyed Dumfries and Galloway as it is so different from the rest of Scotland and I hope that rambblers take the opportunity to visit this historic town and the many interesting gardens within the area. Again, if anybody knows the area and wishes to suggest a walk please put it forward as we have found in the past that if you have enjoyed a walk other rambblers will too.

Finally, the AGM is to be held on Friday 16th March. Please come along as it is your organisation and everybody's voice is equal. It is not only a short business meeting but a social evening as well with drinks and nibbles. If you wish to join the committee please do not hesitate to put your name forward.

Irwin Keith

Strathearn Ramblers Committee 2017-18

Chairman

Irwin Keith 01764 652541

Vice-chair

Myra Robertson 01764 670166

Treasurer

Susan Sinclair 01764 670654

Secretary

Andrew Quinn 01764 679887

Committee

Margaret Birks 01786 880288

Carol Buchan 01764 650606

Val Callan 01764 653863

Felicity Martin 01764 670987

David McKeggie 01764 652289

David McLeod 01786 880984

Margaret McVicar 01764 670989

Fiona Penfold 01764 218104

Hon. President

Margaret Shankland 01764 670114

Hon. Vice-president

Ken Heiser 01764 670545

AGM 2018

16 March 7:30pm

You are cordially invited to the Strathearn Ramblers AGM on **16 March 2018 at 7:30pm** in Comrie Golf Clubhouse.

Everybody is welcome as it is a good social occasion to meet your fellow ramblers over nibbles and drinks. We look forward to receiving your feedback about what you want in the walks programme.

One thing we will be discussing is proposed changes to our traditional walk dates (see next page).

Weekend Away 2018

There is still time to book for the next weekend away if you're quick!

The weekend will be in the opposite side of the country from 2017 – in Dumfries. Dumfries & Galloway is an excellent walking area. The coastline of the Solway is particularly beautiful and is backed by some lovely hills.

We have booked the Cairndale Hotel in Dumfries for three nights from Friday 14 September to Monday 17 September. Please check out the hotel on the internet.

The cost is £208.50 per person sharing and £298.50 for a single room. You can upgrade your room to a superior room or deluxe room by supplements of £60 and £90 respectively.

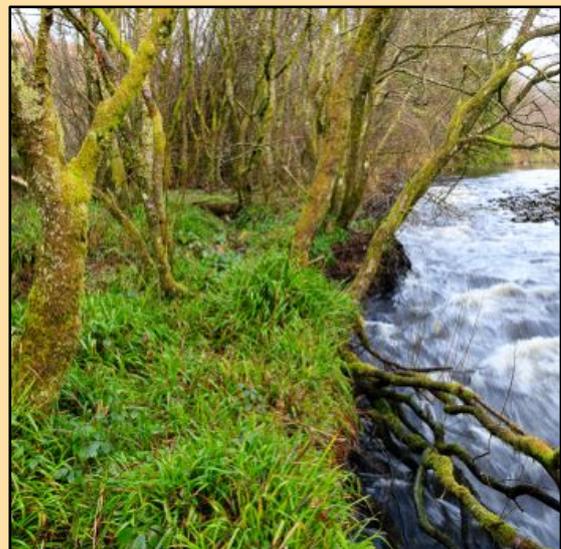
To book a place at the Cairndale Hotel please fill the booking form on the back page with a remittance of £20 deposit.

Please send in your form before the booking deadline of 28 February.

If you are intending to go and would like to be a walk leader please contact me or Myra.

Irwin Keith

Water of Ae in the Forest of Ae – an easy stroll near Dumfries © Felicity Martin



Proposed changes to walk dates

The committee has proposed that we change the dates of walks so that Hill Walks are on the second Sunday of the month, Strolls on the third and Walks on the last. This would effectively swap the weekends of Strolls and Hill Walks.

By creating a 2-week gap between Hill Walks and Walks we hope to encourage more people to do the Hill Walk rather than as present with the Hill Walk one week followed by the Walk the next.

This proposal will be discussed fully at the AGM, so let us know what you think.

Long linear walk

We usually do a long linear walk each summer. Last year's was poorly subscribed, so was cancelled (did we chose the wrong date?). This year we are looking for a walk that has beautiful scenery, a fair challenge but not unduly difficult walking.

The current proposal is to walk from Taynult up the shore of Loch Etive and through Glen Kinglass to Victoria Bridge, near Bridge of Orchy.

The date is likely to be a Saturday in June – probably the 2nd or 30th. More information in the next newsletter.

Walk Reports

10th December XMAS STROLL

Comrie to Auchingarrich

We walked out of the village centre by the River Earn and through Muirend Wood to Polinard (arriving through a neighbour's back gate!) for midway refreshments at the Heisers. A beautifully cold and clear day.



Welcome to Polinard © Lesley Harbinson



By the Earn © Felicity Martin



Mill of Fortune © Felicity Martin

Walk Reports

14th January STROLL Falls of Turret, Druimantivore & Castle Cluggy

Seventeen hardy souls started out on the first stroll of the year on a pretty dreich morning. Our route was altered somewhat due to locked gates and mud. We started off from the distillery and walked towards Ochertyre House cutting off before the path turned northwards, passing Greenend Cottage and into the Dry Den. At this point some walkers, led by Myra, chose to take a less strenuous route as the walk was slightly more challenging and longer than our usual strolls. The remainder of group continued on walking alongside the Turret Burn before leaving the wood above Kiplonie Bridge and taking the high path behind Druimantavore Farm.

Once the path opened up, there were some good views, just about visible

through the murk. We made our way south with the Conalton Burn on our right. After a brief walk along the Comrie Road we entered the Monzievaird Chalet Complex and then on to Monzievaird Loch. Walking round the north side, we were treated to a very entertaining lecture on the colourful history of Castle Cluggy by Margaret and Irwin.

Other points of interest were the artificial island which was used as a prison and the burial mound for plague victims from the 1645 outbreak (although we were unable to identify the location). We also noted evidence of beaver activity although the positive and negative impacts divided the group. From there we made our way back to the distillery. Although the weather remained fairly miserable our spirits certainly didn't – a very enjoyable start to the walking season.

Nina Brown

Future Walks – February

25 February WALK Standing Stone Circular, Balmuick

7 miles

Leave Crieff Coop **8.45am**

Meet at Laggan Park, Comrie at **9.00am**
(N.B. Don't go to Comrie School car park!)

Pay drivers **£1**

Leaders:

Ken Heiser (670545 Mobile 07518
839170), **Val Callan**, **Myra Robertson**

From the Laggan Park car park (signed Comrie Golf Club from the A85) we will walk up the Millennium Path. We will continue in the direction of Balmuick then cross some rough ground to the sheep pens below the Standing Stones.

From the Standing Stones it is downhill on a mixture of paths and sheep trails towards Colonel Williamson's Monument finishing the walk at the meeting point.

Future Walks – March

Please note changed parking place and route for this stroll

11 March STROLL Callander and Falls of Bracklinn

5 miles

Leave Crieff Coop at **9.45am** and
Comrie School car park at **10.00am**
Meet Station Road car park, Callander at
11.00am

Pay drivers **£3**

Leaders:

Ann Morrison (656375, mob. 07770
864529), Val Callan, Felicity Martin

The Station Road car park (pay & display) is just above the main street in Callander – turn in by the Dreadnought Hotel. Our route will start by following the disused railway line east through and out of Callander.

We then turn north on tracks through farmland, crossing over Auchenlaich Cairn, the longest known Neolithic chambered cairn in Scotland! A gentle climb through woodland beside the Keltie Burn will lead us to Bracklinn Falls. Our return is down the road briefly then on a path through the bottom of Callander Crags woods.

Strathearn Ramblers AGM

16 March 2018

7.30pm

Comrie Golf Clubhouse

All welcome – come and enjoy a sociable evening with your fellow members.

Bring any ideas you have for future walks.

25 March WALK Foulford to Comrie

12 miles

Coco bus (**fee £3**) leaves
Comrie School car park at **9am**
Crieff Coop at **9:15am**

Leaders:

Fiona Penfold (218104; mob 07875
281591), Ken Heiser, Andrew Quinn

**PLEASE COMPLETE BOOKING FORM A
at the back of the newsletter**

This is a linear 12-mile walk starting on the A822 south of the Foulford Inn. It follows a waymarked track to Loch Turret, where we cross the dam & pick up another well defined track to Comrie. Passing by the recently renovated Braefordie we head over to join the Balmuick Road & back to Comrie via the golf course.

The walk is on good tracks, is mostly flat with a couple of steepish climbs and great views of Strathearn throughout.

Future Walks – April

HILL WALKS – Please note the walk Leader will decide whether the hill walk will take place on the Saturday or Sunday of the selected weekend and communicate this to all Ramblers who have previously indicated an interest in participating in the walk, usually 3-4 days ahead.

8th April HILL WALK Ben Venue, The Trossachs

6.5 or 7.5 miles, depending on approach
Height: 729m; approx time: 4hours
Pay drivers **£4**

Main leader:

Robert Burns (670408, mob. 07706 952172); email: marg.rob@tiscali.co.uk

Please let Robert know if you are interested in this hill walk and he will confirm the date, timings and start point

Made famous by Walter Scott's epic poem 'Lady of the Lake', this hill has been described as one of Scotland's best-loved small mountains. Ben Venue may be small in stature but it is a mountain of real character, the finest in the Trossachs when seen across Loch Venachar, Loch Achray or Loch Katrine.

The ascent is a great walk with both boggy and rocky ground higher up, and stunning views from the summit.

There are two possible approaches, from Loch Achray to the east or Ledard on Loch Ard to the south. The Loch Achray approach is the most popular but much of the route is through forest which is being steadily felled. Good forest tracks and paths to the tree-line, then a very boggy path to the col and a final rocky path to the summits.

The Ledard approach offers a more satisfying hillwalk combining fine oak and birch woodland at the start with a traverse through dramatic mountain scenery. Path up the Ledard Glen is very muddy in places and boggy higher up. On Ben Venue itself the going is rough and rocky.

15th April STROLL Braco Castle

5 miles

Leave Comrie School car park at **10.00am**
and Crieff Coop at **10.15am**
Meet in Braco at **10.30am**

Pay drivers **£2**

Leaders:

Val Callan (653863; mob 07908 231473),
Margaret Shankland, Irwin Keith

Park in Braco just south of the bridge over the River Knaik, near the entrance to Braco Castle.

A gentle, fairly level walk beside the River Knaik leads to Braco Castle, whose gardens are always a pleasure to visit. There is a charge of £4 per person for visiting the gardens.

We will return on tracks via a different route back to the village.

Future Walks – April

22 April WALK Loch Ordie

11 miles

Leave Comrie School car park **9.00am** and
Crieff Coop **9.15am**

Meet Cally car park in Dunkeld, off
Blairgowrie road beyond sawmill

Pay drivers **£3**

Leaders:

Carol Buchan (650606, mob. 07523
088613), **Fiona Penfold**, **Irwin Keith**

Starting along the path to Mill Dam, then following the path to Loch Ordie, passing Loch Rotmell and Loch Dowally on the way, with great views up the Tay glen towards Logierait and Grandtully. From Loch Ordie we will take a rough path back to Mill Dam.

Lovely Perthshire views and scenery with woodland plantations, followed by Highland moors and landscape. Height gained 700 feet. Look out for fallow deer between the car park and Mill Dam!

29 April – AWAY DAY TO LAURENCEKIRK OVER 50s

STROLL – 4 or 5 miles WALK – up to 8 miles

Leave Comrie School car park at **8.00am**
and Crieff Coop at **8.15am**

Cost of bus **£12**

(NB. Above price is the cost of using a Sweeney's bus. If numbers are lower and we use the CoCo bus, participants will receive a refund)

Organiser:

Margaret McVicar (670989, mob. 07513
431237)

Walk leaders:

Will be members of Laurencekirk Over 50s

**PLEASE COMPLETE BOOKING FORM B
at the back of the newsletter and
return the booking form by 4 April**

ST CYRUS coastal walks

We have had several exchange visits now with the Laurencekirk Over 50s, one of whose number is Margaret McVicar's sister. They are sociable events where the host walking group leads the visitors on walks, finishing off with refreshments provided by the hosts.

This time it is our turn to visit Laurencekirk. Although we don't have details of the walks yet, they plan to provide an easy stroll and a longer walk probably along the coast at St Cyrus, just north of Montrose, where there is a National Nature Reserve with grassland, dunes and cliffs.

Future Walks – May

13 May HILL WALK

Ben Chonzie

8.75 miles, depending on approach
Height: 931m; approx time: 5 hours
Pay drivers £1

Main leader:

Dave McKeggie (652289, mob. 07901 706177); email: marg.rob@tiscali.co.uk

Please let Dave know if you are interested in this hill walk and he will confirm the date, timings and start point

Our local Munro with an easy ascent from Invergeldie, or a longer walk from Glen Turret. The Invergeldie approach gives a shorter, easier climb as it follows a track most of the way, although this is rather loose underfoot.

An easy ascent by Munro standards, Ben Chonzie can be climbed in a long half day and is the highest summit in a large area of heather moorland. Easy track and then moorland with a path (indistinct in places), short boggy section.

20 May STROLL Old Railway Line, Killin

6 miles

Leave Crieff Coop at **9.45am** and
Comrie School car park at **10.00am**
Meet in Killin at **10.30am**

Pay drivers £2

Leaders:

Myra Robertson (670166; mob 07522 690289), **Pat Keith**, **Margaret Shankland**

Park in the Council yard car park (on the site of the old station) in Killin.

This is a stroll of two loops on mostly good paths with a short climb and short road walk.

We will start by heading west behind the village on the Old Railway, taking a loop up through the trees. We will return to the path to head east to the second loop, which will take us around the head of Loch Tay and back to the car park. Expect great views of surrounding hills and Loch Tay.

27 May WALK 'In remotest Breadalbane' Strath Fillan to Glen Lochay

10 miles

Coco bus (fee is £5), leaving:
Crieff Coop **8.45am** and
Comrie School car park **9.00am**

Leaders:

Irwin Keith (652541; mob. 07816 182730),
Marjorie Bourne, **Felicity Martin**

From just beyond Crianlarich we cross the railway line and take a track uphill beside the Inverhaggie Burn to a plateau where we walk across open country, which can be boggy, reaching the watershed and some abandoned sheilings at the head of Glen Lochay. From here it is an easy walk on track through the glen, with waterfalls and wildlife in abundance, following the River Lochay towards our destination at Kendrum.

PLEASE COMPLETE BOOKING FORM C at the back of the newsletter

Bus Booking Form A

25 March 2018 WALK Foulford to Comrie

Closing date: Wednesday 21st March 2018.

Please reserveseats on the bus for this walk.

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

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

.....

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Walk 25/3/18" to:

Ken Heiser, 18 Polinard Comrie PH6 2HJ

Bus Booking Form B

29 April 2018 STROLL & WALK Laurencekirk Over 50s (St Cyrus)

Closing date: Wednesday 4th April 2018.

Please reserveseats on the bus for this walk.

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

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

.....

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Walk 29/4/18" to:

Ken Heiser, 18 Polinard Comrie PH6 2HJ

Bus Booking Form C

27 May 2018 WALK Strath Fillan to Glen Lochay

Closing date: Wednesday 23 May 2018.

Please reserveseats on the bus for this walk.

Enclosed is the sum of £..... @ **£5** per person.

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

.....

Please pass this form and monies in an envelope clearly marked "Walk 24/9/17" to:

Ken Heiser, 18 Polinard Comrie PH6 2HJ



Typical Southern Uplands hills (Devil's Beef Tub) – similar terrain to the hill walk we'll probably do on the Away Weekend in Dumfries (e.g. Cairnsmore of Fleet, Criffel or Merrick)

**BOOKING FORM FOR THE STRATHEARN RAMBLERS
WEEKEND AWAY AT THE CAIRNDALE HOTEL, DUMFRIES
FROM FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER TO MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**

Name(s)

.....

Please reserve Double room(s) @ £208.50 per person

..... Twin room(s) @ £208.50 per person

..... Single room(s) @ £298.50 per person

Please upgrade my/our room(s) to Superior @ £60 extra per room (tick here)

Please upgrade my/our room(s) to Deluxe @ £90 extra per room (tick here)

At the Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries for Evening Meal, Bed & Breakfast

I am/we are able to offer a lift to the hotel for other member(s).

I am/we are unable to offer a lift.

I /we require a lift.

Please delete the above as appropriate.

I/we enclose a cheque for £20 per person as a non-refundable deposit. The cheques to be made payable to 'Strathearn Ramblers'. Envelopes to be marked 'Dumfries'.

Special dietary requirements

Other needs

**Please pass forms and cheques to the Treasurer, Susan Sinclair,
5 Strathview Place, Comrie PH6 2HG by 28 February 2018.**

The Strathearn Rambler

The Strathearn Rambler is the official newsletter of the Strathearn Ramblers, 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!). Photographs should be sent as separate email attachments, not embedded in a text file.

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Phone: 01764 670987