



'Our weekend walk this week took place in Birnam Glen. Having travelled from Cupar to the Hermitage car park, 7 members made themselves ready while one of our leaders went in search of the remaining walkers. They were found in the bottom car park, having availed themselves of the catering kiosk and were finishing their morning coffees and doughnuts!!

Suitably gathered, we set off on the riverside path beside the River Braan. It wasn't too long before we came across a couple of fine specimens of ancient, gnarly trees – a massive sycamore (said to be 300 years old) and the Birnam Oak. These trees are thought to be the sole survivors of Birnam Wood, a huge forest that straddled the banks of the Tay, a forest made famous by Shakespeare.



A short drinks stop was then made at some convenient picnic tables found in a nearby orchard. It was then we made our way along a minor road, and past a caravan park before finding ourselves in Birnam. After going through the Beatrix Potter garden, adorned with small statues -reminders of her books – Peter Rabbit etc, we then climbed steadily alongside the Inchewan Burn, almost unbelievably dry despite the not so very summery summer that we have 'endured' this year.



A lunch break ensured we were refreshed and ready for the remainder of the walk. Some of our number were going through a 'songs with numbers pop quiz', one question relating to a B52's hit. On hearing just a snippet of one of the questions, a member was heard to say 'I didn't see the sign for that!' referring to 'The Love Shack' – which, according to the song, is 15 miles distant...

The walk was now taking us along the Braan path via the Rumbling Bridge back to the Hermitage car park. There were fine views of the river and falls, spectacular in places. It seemed to be a popular path as we encountered more and more people, families and dogs, no doubt the fine weather encouraging everyone to be out in the fresh air.

Back at the car park, it was agreed that it was a lovely walk, containing a variety of surfaces and environs – woodlands, hillsides and riversides. A few members then made their way to a refreshment stop in Bankfoot before heading home.

Our next walk is on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August – 'Into the Ochils' from Castlehill Reservoir car park. '