

'It is not easy to write walk reports in that our 'routine' is just that – a finely tuned procedure. We meet up, travel to the walk start, do the walk, ensure we can get somewhere for teas, coffees and cakes, then make our way home. If we're lucky, something out of the ordinary or something amusing may happen.



So it was, for our walk recently to Rotmell Wood, that 7 members met at the Cally Car park near Dunkeld on what was a damp morning, with rain forecast. It was uphill most of the way to our first drinks stop at Mill Dam. Here, one of our number found that they had forgotten to pack their lunch, having wished they had brought the kitchen table with them, as that's where their lunch was.. Such is the friendship within the group there were offers of snacks etc so they wouldn't go

without.

A decision was made to go to view the picturesque Rotmell Loch, which was a little way past the path through the wood. However, on seeing the path through the trees that needed to be negotiated, an agreement was come to whereby we would 'bypass' this path and take the Atholl Wood path up to a viewpoint. Unfortunately, the walk leader, having assured the group it was worth the climb, failed to take the correct route and we passed underneath said viewpoint. 'Well, I did say we would see a viewpoint!' As it was, it was probably a little misty & cloudy to be able to appreciate the view. We didn't see much of Rotmell Wood either!



After a stop for lunch, we made our way downhill back towards the car park, the path running parallel to the busy A9, which could be heard but not seen. The reward on this path was the view of Tay valley up towards Pitlochry, before heading back into the trees. Passing Polney Loch, bordered on the north side by craggy rocks, we then ascended to the car park for our onward journey.

Teas and coffees etc were taken at one of our regular stops, where one of our number was explaining that they had trouble with coordination while doing their exercises. At this point, they were challenged to do the 'Kneesy, Earsy, Nosey' routine from the Laurel & Hardy film 'Fra Diavolo'. Needless to say, much merriment ensued as the one asking had the advantage of being fairly adept at the routine. Try it..

Farewells were said and we then made our way home, another good walk, one that few of us had done before and one that we may come back to in the future.'