

The weather forecast plays quite an important part of our walking group in that most people will 'study' it before deciding whether to walk on a particular day. The forecast for our latest walk to Maspie Den was one such walk, as it was due to be cloudy and cold (especially for May). As it was, it was quite cool, but with sunny intervals. The turn-out was in double figures as we made our way to the start point at the Pillars of Hercules.



Through the woods towards Falkland, with a show of bluebells, we made our way to the start of Maspie Den. A picturesque and tranquil den, it was a steady climb to the highlight of the waterfall. There wasn't the usual flow of water as there has been a prolonged dry spell of late. We took a short drinks stop in this vicinity before a short climb to the path leading downwards.

Before going too far, we left this path and it was a brief ascent to a gate to a field, across which we walked towards a gate and stile at the far end of the field, the sheep doing their best job to avoid us. Over the stile and a nice woodland track led us to 'The Temple of Decision' – a ruined folly thought to be inspired by the Temple of Theseus in Athens. It was built to provide a focal point from Falkland House in 1842.



Continuing the walk, we came to a junction with a decision to make – do we go up to the Tyndall Bruce Monument or carry on? A short trek, (some uphill despite the promise that the walk was all now downhill after the Temple of Decision), up to the monument where we took a lunch break before heading back down the track.



On reaching a junction, memory failed the walk leader, and a wrong turn was taken, but no complaints were forthcoming, and we now found ourselves in bright sunshine and travelling downhill. We rejoined to woodland path back to the Pillars of Hercules car park, after which refreshments were taken.

Thanks were given to the walk leader for a varied walk, albeit not exactly the planned route, through a glen, woodlands etc, and, as usual, in excellent company.

Our next walk is on Saturday 16th May at Atholl Woods and Mill Dam, details are on our website.