

EK News



THE MYSTERY WALK by Eric Kent

8th January 2012

This week's walk was the club annual mystery walk. This year the event was so popular that the club had to hire a double decker coach to accommodate the 76 walkers who were keen to start their new year with fresh air and exercise. On the annual mystery walk the walkers are always trying to work where the walk will start and this year was no exception. To make this harder the coach driver is given instructions to drive a longer route in an attempt to throw the walkers off the scent as long as possible. This year the ploy succeeded very well as we travelled down to Largs via the Motorway and the Coast to enjoy morning coffee and very large and fresh scones at Nardini's Art Deco cafe in the town. From Largs we travelled down to Ayr making for the Seafield end of the promenade where we started our mystery walk which was about eight miles long. We walked along the promenade to the River Doon and then continued along the beach until we passed Greenan Castle. The castle is a 16th century [tower house](#), around 2.5 miles south-west of [Ayr](#) in [South Ayrshire, Scotland](#). The entrance lintel has the inscription, JK 1603 FMD, for John Kennedy of Baltersan and his third wife, Florence MacDowell, who held the title to the adjacent lands including Greenan Mill, and salmon fishing rights on the [River Doon](#) at that time. Passing the castle we moved into Greenan Bay and near the far end of this we turned up a track to Greenan Cottage and followed a track in a southerly direction which ended at the A719. We crossed over the road and on to a track running to Alloway which was



originally the Maidens and Dunure railway line which ran along the coast between Ayr and Girvan between 1906 and 1959 with the last passenger train running to Butlin's Heads of Ayr station in 1947. The walk along the old railway was interesting as there as some interesting houses along the way as well as the lovely Ayrshire countryside. When we arrived at the bridge that crossed the River Doon the river was impressive due to the recent heavy rains and we also enjoyed views up to the old Alloway Bridge. We then passed through a lengthy tunnel which brought us out at Alloway where we left the old railway track and crossed over the Alloway road over to visit the Alloway Kirk where we were given a fine rendition of a Burn's poem by one of the club stalwarts who is a great exponent of Rabbin Burns. From the Alloway Kirk we crossed over the road again past Auld Nick's view and into the Burn's museum gardens where we could look down and get great views of the famous Alloway bridge celebrated in world famous Robert Burns poem Tam O'Shanter. We moved through the museum gardens and then stopped for lunch at the new Robert Burns birthplace museum which was opened earlier this year. After lunch we rejoined the old railway track and continued on this for approximately two kilome-

tres until it joins on to the A79 which we walked along for a short distance and then turned into the back entrance into the Rozelle Estate The woodland corridor remaining at this part of the estate owes its existence to the glen created by the Slaphouse Burn which runs along the border of the Rozelle Estate. The walk along this peaceful stretch of woodland into the main part of Rozelle was enjoyed by the walkers and we soon caught glimpses in the distance of Rozelle House and adjoining Maclaurin Art Gallery from the woodland path. We continued on the woodland track and then turned off south-westward on a track leading past the two ornamental ponds in the estate which host a variety of bird life from Swans & Mallards to Moorhens & Herons and even a single Cormorant. After leaving Rozelle Estate we crossed the road leading in Ayr and entered the Bellisle Park walking on a right of way which crosses between the two golf courses there and through some magnificent woodlands in the park and down on to the main cost road leading down to the heads of Ayr . We crossed over this road and followed a foot path which runs beside the Slaphouse Burn down to the sea. This foot path joins the Ayr promenade walk about 50 metres north of the River Doon. We then returned along the Ayr Promenade to the coach which then transported the walking group to Souter Johnnie's Inn at Kirkoswald where we enjoyed a great meal before returning to East Kilbride



Duncanrig Rambling Club

ESTABLISHED IN 1986

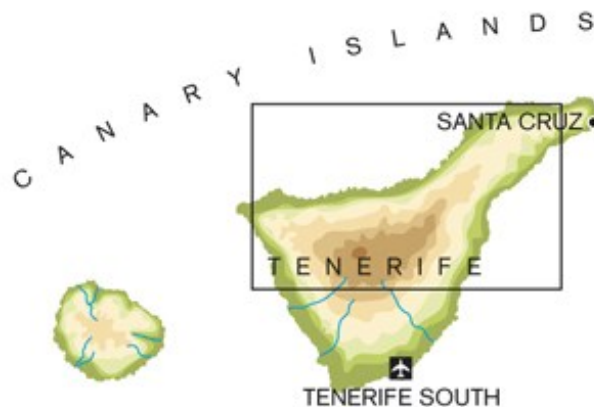
About us:

We are a group of enthusiastic ramblers of all ages and from all walks of life. The one thing we all have in common is that we love to walk in the countryside! Our club was formed in 1986 and last year we had over one hundred members as well as quite a few visitors. We have a full and exciting programme of walks as well as a full social calendar of events. We walk every second Sunday and each walk is approximately 10 miles long. We leave at 8.30 am from St Leonard's Precinct car park. The day consists of a comfort stop, walk with lunch break (bring a packed lunch!) and a social hour before returning home in the early evening. We meet every second Monday evening at 7.00 pm in the Westwood Community Centre which is behind the Westwood Shopping Centre. Its address is Riverton Road, East Kilbride G75 8JQ. At this meeting we hear details of the next walk and book-on if we wish to come along on the following Sunday. Afterwards we have tea and biscuits followed by a social event. Details of the actual walks and social events can be found in our Programme which can be downloaded from our web site: www.duncanrig.com

We welcome new members and visitors who have a reasonable level of fitness. Club membership costs £20 per year (January to January with a pro-rata reduction should a member join part-way through the year). The walk itself costs £9 for a member and £10 for a visitor.

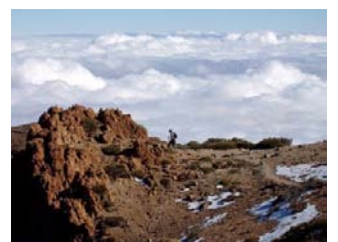
If you would like more information, please telephone Linda on 01355 237548 (Membership Secretary) or Mike (Bus Convenor) on 01355 233122 or why not come along to any of our Monday Evening events and find out more!

Trip to Tenerife: October 2012



The club will have a special trip in 2012 to the beautiful island of Tenerife. We will be staying in Puerto de la Cruz which is further north than the usual holiday spots and is situated in ideal walking terrain. The dates are 29 Sept to 6 Oct and we will be staying on a half board basis in the Catalonia Las Vegas Hotel. All rooms are ensuite with a balcony. The total cost will be £540 pp for a twin

room and £585 for a very limited single room. There will also be around 60 euros to pay once we are at the resort and this will cover the cost of local transport. If you would like to come along, a £100 deposit pp is required and later payments will be outlined shortly. Do hope you will come along as it is sure to be an excellent walking



We're on the web
www.duncanrig.com