



The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group

Eight Ramblers gathered at Aberargie on a warm mid-summer morning for one of our more unusual walks, offering an eclectic mix of experiences including shady woodland, a large recycling centre, a 16th century castle and two disused railway tunnels – and for good measure, a fair amount of ‘undulation’ en route. We set off across fields before beginning our first ascent up a woodland track, admiring several areas where rock plants had been established on a grand scale. Emerging from the trees to scenic views over Perthshire on one side and Fife on the other, we had a brief coffee stop and then continued across open countryside towards Binn Hill and the aforementioned recycling centre. As we walked



along the track through the centre we were impressed by both its scale and organisation. Our next port of call required another uphill stretch to reach Balvaird Castle, constructed as a residence for one Sir Andrew Murray (of Tullibardine) though with not a tennis court in sight. Here we had lunch in the sheltered grounds of the still intact Tower House, while the ruined courtyard also provided scope for the photographers amongst us to practise our skills with shots ‘artfully’ framed through gaps in the walls.

After lunch we headed towards what was arguably the highlight of the day, walking along the disused railway track at Glenfarg and through its two 550-metre tunnels. Starting without our torches we were impressed at how quickly our eyes adjusted to the darkness; however, in the interests of safety we soon switched the torches on. Clearly a popular destination for a Sunday afternoon outing, we met several others walking in the atmospheric tunnels – though not on the much longer stravaig which we had just undertaken! Our final descent took us along tracks and fields back to our starting point at Aberargie. Some of us adjourned for a repeat visit to the friendly café in Abernethy that we had visited two weeks earlier before returning home, pleasantly tired after this long walk with its unique attractions.



Our next walk is this Sunday (4th August) from Auchtermuchty to Pitlour, Grade B+, 9 miles. This circular walk with scenic views has some steep uphill and downhill sections, and takes in Leckiebank, Pitlour Hill and Strathmiglo, returning via Dunshalt. All of our walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and details can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com



Recycling centre



Lunchtime



Views from the Castle



The first tunnel



In the dark



View towards Aberargie