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

Ten walkers set off for a walk in mid June alongside the Forth between Shell Bay, Elie and Lower Largo. As the new Dumbarnie Links golf course is being built, the planned circular route to return via the old rail line had to be changed to a mainly linear walk along the coastal path. On this warm sunny day we all enjoyed the chance to view this lovely part of the coastal path in both directions on our leisurely mid-week walk. After stopping half-way to relax and enjoy the view or some refreshment, we returned after viewing the closed section of the old rail line where the new golf course is taking shape to become a rival to Kingsbarns, according to the architect. It is to be hoped that the lost path will be replaced by an alternative route through the new course, on its opening in 2020. Before returning to our cars we enjoyed team scones and good conversation in Shell Bay Leisure Park cafe.

The following Sunday we gathered at Kirkmichael for a walk around Glen Derby. Briefing us before we set off, our walk leader aptly summed up several sustained ascents ahead of us as ‘lumpy’. Nevertheless we headed out in high spirits in the pleasant summer sunshine. The promise of a coffee stop half way up kept us going on the first of these ascents and, keeping a wary and respectful distance from a large bull who imperiously allowed us to share his field, we safely reached our target. There we enjoyed our coffee and the splendid view across Strathardle to mysterious musical accompaniment, the source of which was eventually identified by the perplexed owner of a pedometer which had spontaneously burst into life. Emerging from the woodland we caught sight of a couple of deer bounding away in the distance as we made our way over the remote moorland. We traversed somewhat boggy terrain with no mishaps to enjoy a pleasant lunch stop in the shelter of ruined farm buildings; then undertook another steep incline before entering Kindrogan Forest. The path led us through the attractive log cabin community of Glen Derby, where some of our group bumped into friends from Fife, before descending to our starting point at Kirkmichael. On our way home we revisited a favourite café in Blairgowrie for welcome refreshments (though sadly no scones) – another fine day out!

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday) from Abernethy to Pitmedden, Grade C+, 7.5 miles. This circular walk with good views follows paths, forestry tracks and field edges. This is

followed on Wednesday 17th July by a leisurely walk from Cupar to Cairnie Fruit Farm. These walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and details can be found on our website [www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com](http://www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com)