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

Twelve St Andrews and NE Fife Ramblers travelled to Angus on a sunny morning in mid-May for a 7-mile walk around Kirriemuir and Loch of Kinnordy. We also acquired an unexpected visitor who had mistaken us for another group, but it seems our company was acceptable as she stuck with us for the rest of the day! Starting at Kirrie Den we made our way up through shady woodland, stopping to appreciate the unusual double-flowered anemones lining the path. We continued towards the loch, a wetland oasis and a home for wildlife including an active family of beavers. We were intrigued by the ‘beaver deceiver’, which lets them build a dam against a fence while also allowing the water levels in the reserve to be controlled. After a brief stop for coffee, with a first-class view over the loch from the nearby hide, we retraced our steps for a short distance and turned towards Caddam Wood. Here in the dappled shade of the magnificent beech trees we enjoyed a tranquil lunch break. We also had clear views over the Angus hills, still topped with snow. On our return towards Kirriemuir we paused to take in the wide vista from the viewpoint at the ‘Stannin’ Stane’ which possibly dates from the Bronze Age. The cultural element of our tour continued with a visit to the grave of J M Barrie before returning what seemed a long way downhill to the centre of town. Our leader had reconnoitred an excellent venue for post-walk refreshments just outside Forfar, and there we reflected on another fine day’s walking.

On the following Wednesday the glorious spring sunshine ensured a good turnout of ‘leisurely’ walkers for a gentle stroll – and yet another cultural tour – around St Andrews. Starting at the West Port we took in the Kinness Burn, harbour, cathedral and castle, passing the Old Course before heading up Jacob’s Ladder and on towards the Lade Braes, and returning via Hallowhill and Viaduct Walk. We concluded our convivial morning in the usual way with light refreshments (and more chat) at a nearby café.

Our next walk is on Sunday 9th June: Norman’s Law and Glenduckie Hill. Grade B, 10 miles. This circular walk on good tracks includes a steep ascent of the Law, rewarded by great all-round views, continues to Glenduckie Village with ascent to hill fort site and returns by the coastal path. Contact 01334 839117 or 07527 156034.

For more details please visit our website [www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com](http://www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com)

Come and try your first walk with us to see if Ramblers is for you!