

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

On a cool, sunny morning towards the end of April, 8 members of St Andrews & NE Fife Ramblers met up to walk from the West Sands café car park to the harbour, via the castle. The walk started along the beach, and although it looked gloomy towards the Lomonds in the distance, the sun came out and stayed with us for the rest of the day. The walking was easy on the firm sand and there were many others also out enjoying the fine weather. A short coffee break was taken before carefully finding our way through the golf courses, first the New, then the Eden and finally the Old. We stopped for lunch near the Old Course Hotel, by the Road Hole. Our walks co-ordinator and erstwhile golfer was able to answer a few golfing queries along the way. It was then up along The Scores, past the castle towards the harbour, taking in the expansive views to the Tay estuary and beyond, before returning to the car park. A very nice walk with the usual enjoyable company.

Our next outing followed just over a week later with a 6-mile country walk starting at Cameron Reservoir. Weatherwise we picked the best day of the week with a welcome break from the persistent rain, hail and sleet showers of previous days.



We set off along the reservoir's northern shore, sheltering out of the wind at the far end for quick refreshments. We then continued around the reservoir before turning right towards Blackwalls. There our leader and her back marker (aka your correspondent – again) were able to observe the prominently-sited gate onto the main track that had somehow eluded them on their recce two weeks

previously. Nevertheless they chose to keep to their previous route thus avoiding an awkward fence at the far end, beside the road towards Peat Inn. Crossing this road we made our way via Greigston House and on to Bankhead Moss Wildlife Reserve. This is the most complete raised bog in the area and the marshland is also an important habitat for birds such as lapwing, teal and snipe. Here we stopped for lunch on the walkway. Leaving the reserve we followed a track to Peat Inn, noting with envy the tempting lunchtime odours as we passed the hotel restaurant. Our route then took us along the busy road towards Radernie, where we were glad to turn left onto a gorse-lined, sheltered path that wound its way gently back to the reservoir. Another enjoyable day out in the countryside.



With Covid-19 restrictions having eased we have prepared a walks programme for the next few months. For the time being we are still keeping our walks local to Fife, with a maximum of 15 people on each walk. Details of all walks – which are open to guests as well as members of Ramblers – can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com