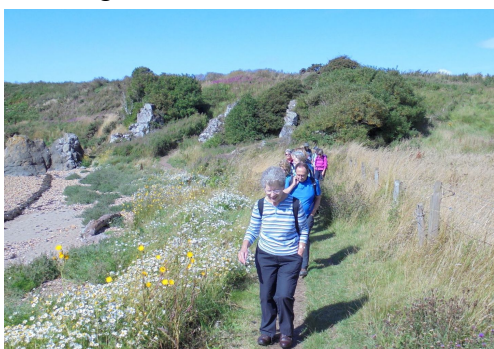


The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group

It was great to welcome back a number of familiar faces on St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers' leisurely walk earlier this month, taking in Scotsraig and Tayfield Estates at Newport. Setting out from the road bridge car park we followed the coastal path towards Tayport for a short spell before crossing the road and into Scotsraig. The woodland track provided our main uphill section – thankfully not too steep! – before we had a brief stop for refreshments at Scotsraig remains. We then continued through the estate, joining the minor road and gently heading back towards Newport. Having accomplished the slightly daunting task of crossing the dual carriageway, we made our way downhill and into Tayfield Estate with its magnificent trees and newly-restored beehive. At our very picturesque setting for lunch beside a pond, a swan and five cygnets provided much interest and entertainment. Our walk leader had come prepared with a supply of swan food (who knew!) which the birds promptly demolished. After strolling back through Newport to the car park, we adjourned as a group for tea for the first time in over a year, hopefully another indication of a return to more 'normal' times.



The following Saturday we had another maximum turnout for a longer, 8-mile circular walk starting at Elie, to St Monans and Abercrombie and returning via Kilconquhar. As we



gathered at the sunny but rather chilly Ruby Bay, most of us donned fleeces and jackets – only to remove them shortly after setting out and finding the coastal path unexpectedly sheltered from the wind. We had our coffee stop overlooking St Monans, resplendent in the sunshine, and then headed inland following the footpath to Abercrombie. Here we made our way first along tracks and then field edges, where the going became a little harder in the long vegetation. Our pre-lunch challenge

was to limbo through a barbed wire fence which we all achieved, some with elegance, others less so. Lunch overlooking Kilconquhar Castle Estate was very welcome! Our route then took us through the village of Kilconquhar and around the Loch, and finally along the pleasant woodland paths through Elie Estate and back to a very busy, traffic-bound Elie. After a very pleasant 8-mile walk, your correspondent was glad to put her feet up on reaching home.



For the time being we are still keeping our walks local to Fife, with a maximum of 15 people on each walk. Details of our walks – which are open to guests as well as members of Ramblers – can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com