

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

Ten members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers braved the elements at the beginning of this month on a circular 6-mile walk from Leuchars to St Michaels. As we set off through the village a gap opened up between those at the front and the back, resulting in the unfamiliar sight of your correspondent breaking into a run to catch the leaders as they turned towards the dismantled railway track. Fully assembled again we headed along the track, watching the grey skies turn ever more threatening. Sure enough, just as we were setting off again after our coffee stop, the rain arrived. Additional waterproofs were hastily donned before taking the minor road towards Craigie. Glad to leave this rather busy stretch of open road, we made towards the relative shelter of St Michaels Wood where we had a hasty lunch break. By the time we emerged from the trees at St Michaels junction the rain was much heavier. Several of us decided we had had enough of the elements and agreed to head straight back to Leuchars along the main road, full of admiration for those hardy souls who completed the planned route via the golf course. Just one of those days!



The following Wednesday, on a much more benign morning (albeit with rain forecast for later), four of our regulars embarked on a leisurely, scenic 4.5-mile walk around Kinghorn Loch. Setting out from the car park overlooking the bay we noticed several marine enthusiasts on 'whale alert' following reported sightings of a humpback in the Firth of Forth earlier in the week. Our route took us uphill from the town on a path next to the golf course, where we enjoyed clear, if distant views towards the bridges in one direction, and Berwick Law and the Bass Rock in the other. We continued past Grangehill and further uphill to our first view of the loch before descending



to cross the main road. From there we followed a woodland path towards the thriving Ecology Centre at Craigencaht and our lunch stop. Just as we were finishing lunch overlooking the tranquil loch, one of our number discovered – to our great amusement – a mouse apparently trying to hitch a lift in his backpack. After careful examination to ensure there were no further interlopers, we made our way towards Kissing Trees Road before turning right onto North Mire Path and looping back towards Kinghorn. After meandering through the town and along the shorefront we climbed up the hill to the car park to greet once again the ever-patient would-be whale watchers who were still in situ. Adjourning for refreshments on our way home, we congratulated our leader on his excellent choice of walk and, having dodged the rain, his successful weather management.



Details of our walks – which are open to guests as well as members of Ramblers – can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com