

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

On a warm, humid and overcast day, 10 members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers set out from Victory Hall, Collessie for the walk to Lindores Loch, Abdie church and return via Monimail, a distance of some 8 miles. The first part was nearly all uphill and it was a welcome respite when we reached the point for the coffee stop. Unfortunately, the damp and long grass underfoot meant that a few of us were quite wet by this time. Also, the views were somewhat obscured by the low cloud and misty conditions. After a short break, it was mostly downhill to Lindores Loch, but not before the group had to negotiate the tricky part of the road over the railway bridge. A short while later, we found our route barred by a new and protective electric fence (this was not there when the recce was done!) Although there was a sign saying 'Pedestrian Walkway' it was none too clear, but after a scramble over slippery rocks and some squelching underfoot, we rejoined our original path which then afforded us some fine views over the loch and beyond. The going was now straightforward until the lunch break at Abdie church. Following the road on to Lindores, the path (easily missed, no signage) cut through the trees and ran parallel to the main road before stopping at a lodge. From here a few of our number took the opportunity to view the loch from the jetty, where they were



informed by a couple seated on a nearby bench that they had just missed an osprey swooping down to the loch. A classic case of 'you should have been here five minutes ago'! By now the weather was much brighter, and it was now mostly uphill following the medieval cart tracks. After passing the woods we were 'escorted' for a few hundred yards by numerous noisy and panicky pheasant chicks. We carried on until Monimail where we rejoined the minor road back to Collessie. A lovely walk enjoyed by all, with much to see in the way of views, flora and fauna.



The following Wednesday we had another of our monthly leisurely outings, on this occasion a 4.5-mile circular walk taking in Keil's Den and the coast at Lower Largo. Meeting at Temple car park, our group of nine set off in the bright sunshine on a gentle ascent towards Upper Largo. Our route then took us a little further uphill to a track opening opposite the cemetery. Now on level ground, we were able to enjoy the open views over the fields to the Forth Estuary. Some of us were tempted to sample the gooseberries



growing along the verge but though they looked appealing, we could not recommend them! Shortly afterwards we joined the track into the pleasant woodland walk through Keil's Den. After a brief stop for lunch we followed the path down to the picturesque Keil Burn. As we emerged from the Den we continued along a track towards Lundin Links. There we headed down to the shore, enjoying the relaxed summer atmosphere as we strolled along the beach and back to our starting point.

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.standrewsneiferamblers.com