

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

On our much-anticipated first group walk since before Christmas, 8 members and a guest gathered at the Fluthers Car Park at the end of March for the start of the walk to St Mary's and Balarvie (Cupar Leaflet, Walk No 4). We all agreed how good it was to finally walk together again as we set off along Burnside, before a short climb to Moathill. On past the southern end of Duffus Park to Elmwood College where birdsong and emerging buds and daffodils were in evidence, heralding the start of spring and warmer weather (we hope!) Along St Mary's Road we took a short drinks' break before striding out to the farm at St Mary's where, after a short incline, we faced a cold and stiff-ish breeze. It seemed the day had got cooler as we sat on the bridge for lunch before joining the main road into Cupar. A sharp left turn took us alongside the Lady Burn all the way back to the Fluthers. All told, it was a very pleasant 2.5 hours and 5 mile walk for our first outing.

Ten days later we had a full complement of 15 for a longer circular walk starting at Dairsie, taking us through Logie and returning via Clayton. After the recent return of wintry weather we were thankful that the cold winds had receded, making way for spring sunshine and almost cloudless skies. The steady uphill stretch at the start of the walk provided opportunities to 'admire the view of the surrounding countryside' (or stop to catch our breath) before the track levelled out at Wester Craigfoodie. Shortly after joining the minor road



towards Logie we had coffee at Craigsanquhar Hotel – though not quite as suggested by our walk leader, since of course we had to provide our own refreshments while we perched on the wall at the entrance to the hotel grounds. We continued steadily uphill through Logie before turning right onto the track leading to Cuplahills. Stopping for lunch a little further down we enjoyed great views over the Eden Estuary. Our route then took us down a pleasant woodland path, past picturesque Pitcullo Castle to Muirhead,

across the main road and on towards Clayton. After enduring a short stretch alongside the busy A91 we were happy to cross the road at North Dron and follow the track beside the railway. At this point four of our number had stopped to admire wild garlic growing in the verges; but it was only when our leader halted some distance along the track to enquire gently of our so-called back marker (aka your correspondent) as to their whereabouts that she realised she had 'misplaced' them. Just then the missing reappeared to minimise her discomfiture. Restored to our full complement we completed the final part of the walk past Edenbank and back into Dairsie without further incident.



With Covid-19 restrictions easing we have now prepared a walks programme for the next few months. 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](http://www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com)