

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

St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers continued their local programme in mid-May with a mostly circular 7-mile walk from Ceres to Scotstarvit. Eleven of us set out from the village car park on a fairly cool but rain-free morning along the path towards Craigrothie. Not long into the walk some of us spotted a hare loping across a field – a cheerful sight, though too swift for a photograph. As we stopped shortly after this for coffee at Denhead, our walk leader entertained us with the first instalment of his research into the area's history. Suitably refreshed and informed, we continued on our route towards Hill of Tarvit and the mansion and gardens designed by Sir Robert Lorimer. The more direct, narrow path skirting Craigrothie was very muddy so we made a minor detour through the



village before crossing the ford and up to Wemysshall Road. At the entrance to the estate we followed the Centenary Walk through the trees, enjoying the stunning display of bluebells as we walked up towards the doocot. There our leader offered the option of lunch with a fine view over to the mansion house, or continuing up past the house and climbing to the summit for an even finer view of the surrounding countryside. Hunger trumped ambition and we adjourned for lunch. When the decisive snapping shut of our walks co-ordinator's lunchbox

signalled the conclusion of our repast we moved on towards the tree-lined driveway, crossing the road and taking the path to Scotstarvit Tower. After walking around the base of the tower we headed along a track to Chance Inn, stopping briefly for a further informative input from our leader as he described the picturesque hamlet's origins. As we made our way back towards Craigrothie through a vibrant yellow gorse-filled field we opted to retrace our steps via Denhead rather than taking a slightly longer way back to Ceres. As we were a making our farewells in the car park, a police van drew up and, deducing immediately that we were walkers, the two officers invited us to pose for a photograph to help promote their walking the Fife Pilgrim Way. Unfortunately none of us subscribes to the social media platform where the photo was to be posted!



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