

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

At nine miles, St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers' leisurely walk this month from Cupar to Moonzie Kirk and back was somewhat longer than usual, but it still attracted a good turnout of members along with two visitors from other groups. We set out from the Fluthers on a sunny morning and, after the first uphill stretch via Hawklaw and on towards Foodieash, we were ready to stop for refreshments on a shady tree-lined path. Passing Cairnie the temperature continued to soar and as we continued westwards on the path towards Moonzie we were grateful for the trees overhead which offered temporary respite from the blazing sunshine. Back out in the open again on the road up to the kirk, on reaching our destination we all scurried for the shelter of the trees to have lunch. After exploring the churchyard briefly we prepared for the return journey with the incentive of a sojourn for tea and scones at Cairnie to keep us going. This proved to be a good strategy as the return leg seemed somehow less tiring despite the heat. Suitably refreshed, we completed the final uphill section from Foodieash before coasting downhill and back into Cupar.



The following Saturday we had yet another maximum turnout for an 8-mile circular walk from Springfield via Pitlessie and Crawford Priory. Before we set off our walk leader (aka your correspondent) had to confess to the assembled group that her depiction of this walk as 'leisurely' was perhaps not entirely accurate as she had failed to take account of the prolonged uphill section from Pitlessie to the Cults Road. Mea culpa over, we headed out along a well-used path towards Pitlessie, diverting for a while into a pleasant wooded section containing a pond and some interesting fungi. Our path continued under and then parallel to the railway line. On reaching the edge of the village we stopped for drinks, perching on several conveniently-placed boulders beside the road junction, and then we made our way through Pitlessie and across the main road. The aforementioned uphill challenge was now in front of us but, with a few stops



on the way up to admire the view, the track turned out to be less daunting than anticipated. Nevertheless, we were happy to arrive at the top and to rest for lunch next to the road on yet another collection of strategically-placed large rocks above the old limeworks. Our route then took us briefly down the Cults Road before turning left, down a field track towards and past Bunzion to cross over the main road once more. The final section led us into the estate at Crawford Priory where our leader related a (very) brief history of the building and its owners as we surveyed the ruins. After completing our walk along the pleasant woodland track and back into Springfield, we adjourned for tea at the kind invitation of our Walks Co-ordinator and his wife. No sooner had we settled into our garden chairs than the rain – which had been forecast for earlier in the day – finally made an appearance, thus curtailing our post-walk social gathering. All in all however it was a very enjoyable day's walking.



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.standrewsnefiferablers.com