

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

A very blustery Saturday morning in mid-February saw 10 hardy members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers set out from Temple car park in Lower Largo on a 7-mile walk to Shell Bay. We headed east and into the wind along the old railway line, briefly following the coastal path and then tracks through Dumbarnie Links. A sheltered spot for coffee provided welcome respite from the wind before continuing towards West Muircambus. There we found shelter again as we made our way through the woods towards the shore, emerging from the trees to enjoy fine views over Cocklemill Burn to Largo Law. Lunch by the path leading to Ruddon's Point was a



fairly brief affair and as we set off again on the narrow track through the dunes and back towards Lower Largo, we watched the leaden skies closing in. Sure enough, not long after we had left the track for the beach, a squally shower arrived forcing us to retreat to the relative shelter of the railway line. Fortunately the rain passed over fairly quickly and by the time we arrived back at our starting point we had more or less dried out. All agreed that it had been well worth the effort to venture out on this bracing walk with great views.



The following Wednesday 11 walkers met at Portmoak Church to follow in the footsteps of Michael Bruce, 'The Gentle Poet of Loch Leven' (1746 – 1767). The weather forecast was for high winds and rain, but as we climbed the steep, muddy hill above the village at the start of this 7-mile walk we were still able to see over Loch Leven to the hills beyond. We had our coffee stop overlooking the loch and then continued along the lower slopes of Bishop Hill towards Kinnesswood. There we took a little time to explore the garden next to Michael Bruce's cottage before heading along the main road towards Channel Farm. We managed, at the second attempt, to find a suitable place to shelter from the breeze and light rain for lunch. As we sat looking over a sodden cricket pitch, some of our group could not resist the

opportunity to offer their thoughts on the merits (or otherwise) of the game. Our route then took us down towards the loch, joining the Loch Leven Heritage Trail and heading along muddy, waterlogged tracks in the direction of Grahamstone. We turned left and followed Grahamstone Avenue, skirting Portmoak Moss and stopping to visit the Well at Scotlandwell. Returning to the car park after this interesting and enjoyable walk we were thankful that we had managed once again to avoid the worst of the stormy weather.



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