

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

For their first walk of 2022 St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers ventured beyond the Fife boundary for the first time in almost two years, travelling to the scenic area of Forteviot and the Water of May in Perthshire. Twelve regulars set out from the former Forteviot bowling club on this 6-mile, gently undulating circular walk. We soon turned onto a track leading towards Muckersie Wood, where the marked path took us briefly but rather



stretch along the tracks back to Forteviot.

disconcertingly through the grounds of a private house before reaching the entrance to the woodland estate. We walked alongside the Water of May for a while, with a brief stop for coffee, and continued along the wooded path in pleasant sunshine. Shortly after joining a minor road we stopped for our lunch break at a scenic spot well-chosen by our walk leader at a bridge overlooking the river. Our route then continued for a while along this quiet road before we began the homeward

The following Wednesday eight members, one visitor and a guest gathered on an overcast day in the car park at Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy. After a short briefing we set off into the park past newly dug flower beds ready for planting, sure to be resplendent in the summer months. We headed around the pond, avoiding a young swan on the path before leaving the park for the woods that run parallel to the busy Oriel Road. Here we took a short coffee break before a gentle climb through the trees to emerge on Bennoch Road. Crossing Oriel Road we entered the somewhat muddy path towards the Raith Estate. Following the undulating trail through the woods, we stopped to have lunch at conveniently-placed (for us!) trees which had been blown down in Storm Arwen in November. After lunch we had a short detour to view from a safe distance the large mansion, Raith House.



The path then left the woods and we took another short detour to the tomb of Munro

Ferguson, Lieutenant Colonel of Raith and Novar, who died in 1868. It was now on to the path named the Mill Walk, another undulating path taking us to Raith Lake and on towards Beveridge Park. On entering the park, we took the short Wizard Trail to view the interesting wooden sculpture of the Wizard, the 13th century alchemist Michael Scott, before returning to the car park. A very interesting walk in parts of Kirkcaldy previously unknown to your correspondent.



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