

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



Earlier this month St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers chose the windiest day of the summer (so far!) for an adventurous mid-week hike up West Lomond. Seven stalwarts set out from the car park at Craigmead, pausing a few minutes later to admire several working dogs being put through their paces in the adjacent field. Buffeted by the high wind we made our way along the gently ascending track towards the hill, and after an hour or so we were glad to shelter behind a wall for our coffee break. As we continued

towards our intended destination we considered whether we should attempt the summit. In the end four of us decided to carry on, and as we gained height we found the wind was now behind us and conveniently propelling us to the top. We lingered only long enough to admire the stunning views and to take photographs for the record, before retracing our steps to rejoin the others for lunch behind our now favourite wall. By the time we set off again on the final stretch back to the car park, the wind had abated slightly and we completed the walk comfortably. As a reward for our efforts we stopped for refreshments at one of our regular haunts, before heading back to Cupar.

The following Saturday nine of us set off in much more benign weather for a 7.5-mile countryside walk at Caputh in Perthshire, where we were also joined by a visitor from Perth Ramblers. We headed east in the sunshine and light breeze along quiet tracks to the charming village of Spittalfield, where we had our coffee break at the picnic tables on the village green. The traditional stone cottages surrounding the green were built to house weavers employed by the linen factory, known as the Muckle Hoose, on the north side of the square. Many of the buildings in the area are decorated in the blue and white livery of Glendelvine Estate. From Spittalfield a track took us on to Millhole where we forded a stream via a wooden footbridge. Further tracks led us past a variety of interestingly-named farms. By this stage thoughts were turning to our lunch stop but our leader (aka your correspondent) had a particular place in mind, with shady trees and a great view overlooking the River Tay, which she assured everyone was worth holding out for, for 'just another ten minutes'. Unfortunately, this best-laid scheme went agley; the idyllic spot now contained sheep, which had not been present on the recce undertaken a



couple of weeks previously. We declined to share the venue with our ovine companions and instead settled for lunch further down the hill, minus the view. After this we had a short spell of walking along the busy A984 before turning right towards the Tay and taking the much acclaimed scenic path along its left bank and back to Caputh. On our way home we diverted via Bankfoot for our usual tea and scones, over which we agreed that this had been a splendid walk and one



worth repeating.

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