

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

On a cool and overcast day in mid-March, 13 members set out on a walk from Ceres to Kinninmonth via some of the Coal Road and the Fife Pilgrim Way. Following the Pilgrim Way towards the Pitscottie to Peat Inn road, we had a short coffee break where the walk leader was able to impart the tale of the Italian balloonist Vincenzo Lunardi, who landed nearby after a 46-mile flight from Edinburgh on the 5th October 1785, no mean feat at that time. We then carried on towards Kinninmonth, through the farmyard (surprisingly un-muddy!) and up the hill, where we admired the views before returning a short distance down the hill for a lunch stop. After this break, the walk continued back down the hill and across the bridge over the Ceres Burn and through fields to Wester Pitscottie. From there it was back to Ceres. The walk finished at the car park and we were lucky enough to avoid any inclement weather throughout the day. Tea, coffee and cakes were then enjoyed at the lovely café at the Fife Folk Museum before our homeward journeys, just as the sun came out.



The following Wednesday, 8 members and two guests gathered at the start of the Newtyle railway walk. It was obvious from the straight-ish and level path that this used to be a railway line, with the remains of a station platform along the way. On meeting a crossing point over a busy road, you could see where the line had split as there were two bridges very close to one another, but neither has a span across the road. We followed the path up to a minor road which then led slightly uphill to where we were able to make a coffee stop.



We were then forced to make a slight detour from the original planned route as it was found on the recce that there were numerous fallen trees blocking the way, thanks to Storm Arwen. So we continued up and eastwards, past Kilpurnie Castle (originally owned by William Oliphant, Lord of Aberdalgie, by a grant from Robert the Bruce), before heading downwards and north for our lunch stop. The weather throughout the day was not as forecast and although cool, it was almost windless and made for very pleasant walking. After lunch, we retraced our steps on the railway walk, accompanied by many and varied birdsongs, back to the start point. An enjoyable walk of roughly 6 miles, with some lovely views over the Angus countryside. Hopefully our visitors enjoyed themselves enough to warrant further walks with our group!



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