

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



St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers attracted 13 members on their venture into Angus at the end of May for a 7.5-mile circular walk from Cortachy to the Airlie Monument at Tulloch Hill. Setting out from the car park next to the school, we stopped briefly to admire the grounds of Cortachy Castle and enjoy the sunlit view over the River South Esk before turning left into a glorious technicolour of azaleas and rhododendrons arrayed in a large plantation beside the river. We continued along the riverside

path to a footbridge where we crossed the river and made our way through the woodland, with a brief stop for coffee perching on a fallen tree. There followed a short stretch beside the B955 past Cullow and then we headed into Auchnadoes and Tulloch Hill Plantations. As we made our way up towards the monument at the top of Tulloch Hill those familiar with the area



observed its changed appearance, owing to the large numbers of trees which had been felled in recent



years. On reaching the summit we surveyed the all-round views over the Angus hills and glens before lunching on the leeward side of the monument, which is a memorial to the ninth Earl of Airlie who died in the Boer war. We then descended to the foot of the hill and the stunning granite cairn erected in memory of the Antarctic explorers Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Dr Edward Wilson, who planned their ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1912 at Wilson's home nearby.

From there we followed tracks to Dykehead and back into the woodland north of Cortachy. With the direct route blocked, to return to the village we had to retrace our steps over the footbridge and wander through the azaleas again – not exactly a hardship! Before heading back to Fife the carload from Cupar, ready for post-walk refreshments, eventually sourced takeaway coffees on a quiet Saturday afternoon in Kirriemuir. Another splendid spring walk with plenty of bonhomie!



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