

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



On the last day of April seven members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers travelled to Blairgowrie for a favourite spring walk to Bluebell Wood. We set out along the left bank of the River Ericht, stopping to look down at the narrow gorge known as Cargill's Leap, in commemoration of a Covenanter who is said to have escaped pursuing troops by leaping across the falls. After admiring the old mill buildings, which processed mostly flax and jute during the first half of the 19th century, we

continued on Knockie Path, part of the CATERAN Trail. A short uphill stretch brought us onto a minor road, which would have given us good views over Blairgowrie had it not been for the light rain now falling. We stopped for a quick break at the end of this road and shortly afterwards joined a track towards Muirton of Ardblair and Bluebell Wood (otherwise known as Darroch Wood, this being Gaelic for oak). Our leader had hinted that the renowned carpets of bluebells might not be easy to spot, and so it proved, thanks to the unseasonably cold weather during much of April. Nevertheless we enjoyed a pleasant stroll, and our lunch stop, amongst the trees. The final part of the walk took us first to Fingask Loch, and then along the edge of White Loch before we made our way back into Blairgowrie, where our leader's choice of venue for tea and scones in a nearby hotel met with universal approval. A very pleasant walk despite the intermittent rain and the limited display of bluebells.



The following Wednesday a group of eight, including one visitor, enjoyed a 5-mile walk from Kingsbarns to Boarhills. Our route took us along the grass tracks at Morton of Pitmilley and, after crossing the main road, on to join the coastal path beside the picturesque Kenly Water. Here there were plenty of bluebells on display! Just before reaching the shoreline we had our coffee stop at a couple of benches; our leader, prepared as always, helpfully produced a pair of scissors so that we could clear the seats of intruding brambles. At the shore we headed gently back towards Kingsbarns, before finishing the day at a favourite café nearby.

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday), a scenic 6.5-mile loop around the Lomond Reservoirs of Ballo, Harperleas and Holl on woodland and farm tracks. All of our walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and full details can be found on our website www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com