

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



Nine St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers ventured to Perthshire last weekend for an 8-mile 'lollipop' walk at Methven Wood. We headed east from Methven along a path beside the busy A85, aware that we would have to repeat this stretch on our way back. After some 15 minutes we were glad to escape onto the peaceful track towards Methven Castle. This 17th century house stands quite prominently beside the track, though apparently not noticeably enough for our

walk leader, who confessed that he had missed it on the outward leg of his recce. Soon afterwards we reached the wood and stopped for our coffee break where a large number of trees had been felled, providing convenient seating on the remaining stumps. The weather was brightening up as we continued along undulating paths to the far end of the wood, by now looking down over the River Almond. Our route took us briefly onto a minor road at Dalcrue and after crossing the bridge over the Almond we turned onto another scenic woodland path, lined with snowdrops and high above the other side of the river, now sparkling in the bright sunshine. After passing Cromwellpark we halted for lunch and then carried on along the private road towards Almondbank. Crossing the river once again we made our way through the village before turning onto a popular track towards the pretty Methven Loch. There followed a gentle but prolonged ascent around the southern edge of Methven Wood. On reaching level ground we retraced our steps toward the castle and then endured the noisy main road for a second time as we returned to our starting point. During refreshments at a well-known garden centre on the outskirts of Perth, the conversation turned to our



leader's favourite subject of washing machines. And thus we concluded a lovely day's walking in good company.

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday), a 9-mile section of the Pilgrim Way from Kennoway to Ceres. This is a moderate walk mostly on well-defined tracks in open country and woodland. 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