

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

On a rather wet and dreich Saturday, 8 members (including one new member) set off from Cupar for the journey to a walk around Culross. The weather was deteriorating as we drove down the M90, such that the discussion in both cars was whether the walk should actually go ahead. As we neared Rosyth, the weather turned slightly less grey and by the



time we reached Culross, the rain had stopped. A brief vote ensued and it was decided to go ahead, with an option to cut the walk in half if needed. We set off from the car park around the enclosed nature reserve at Preston Island, a man-made promontory made from left-over ash etc from the nearby power station at Longannet. After a brief coffee stop, with views over the Forth and towards the bridges, the weather brightened to

such an extent that some walkers were able to divest themselves of scarves etc. The walk continued back into Culross, and following a short uphill section we arrived at the Abbey. From there we followed some very wet and muddy tracks to the ruins at the old West Kirk, where lunch was taken. We continued on and took a brief detour to visit the 'Plague Graves'; this is the burial ground of three very young children of the same family who all died on the same day in 1645. From there it was downhill to Blair Mains farm and Blair Castle before joining the coastal path back to Culross. The car park was quite busy by now so the Walks Co-ordinator offered to check if a nearby café could accommodate us.



The café was full so he decided to walk eastwards to where he thought was another café. It did not appear, and, having phoned the walk leader, it transpired he had taken a wrong turn and there was indeed another café, with space, just a few yards from the first one; his 'other' café was in fact in Limekilns... Overall, this was a very enjoyable walk, ably led by a last minute stand-in for the original walk leader, and all were glad that it had gone ahead despite our initial misgivings about the weather.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 18th January, a 5.5-mile circular walk from Earlsferry, following the coastal path and woodland tracks, with great views from Kinraig Hill and Ruddons Point. 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