

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



Ten members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers met in St Monans on an overcast day in early June for a coast and countryside walk to Anstruther. We headed out along the minor road to Abercrombie and then into Balcaskie estate where we had our coffee stop, with the house providing a splendid backdrop. We continued towards Easter Grangemuir and from there followed a poppy-lined

track into Anstruther. Our walk leader had encouraged us with the prospect of lunch from a local fish bar and, despite the rather lengthy queue, this fully lived up to expectation. Suitably recharged, we made our way back to St Monans along the coastal path in bright sunshine, the clouds having dispersed at last. To conclude the day we made the short trip into Elie for post-walk refreshments.



The following Sunday we ventured further afield with a 7-mile walk at Edzell. Another good turnout of 14 set out from the village along the scenic River North Esk, notable for its red sandstone rock. Our leader had explained that, because of fallen trees, it was not possible to walk up one side of the river and back down the other, and the damage caused by Storm Arwen was certainly evident in the large piles of timber stacked along the route. We made our way carefully on the narrow paths,

crossing the boundary between Angus and Aberdeenshire at Gannochy Bridge, where we entered the famous 'blue door' into the grounds of The Burn House. This is an educational charitable trust, a study centre left in memory of the previous landowner's son who was killed in action in 1944. As we continued along the riverside path we decided that time would not allow us to reach our intended destination at the Rocks of Solitude and we stopped for lunch, sheltering under the trees from the light rain which had just come on. We returned through the grounds of The Burn and as we retraced



our steps towards Edzell the rain became somewhat heavier, forcing some of us to dig out our rain jackets. We took time out to cross and recross the Shakin Brig, a pedestrian suspension bridge over the river, which some enjoyed more than others. Arriving back in the village, we made perfect time for our booking at a friendly local café. We hadn't been on this lovely walk for several years, and no doubt it will be in our programme again.

Our next walk is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June, a 6.5-mile walk at Almondell and Lin's Mill Aqueduct, on good woodland paths and minor roads, taking in Almondell Country Park en route to cross the spectacular aqueduct over the Union Canal. 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](http://www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com)