

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

Six members of St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers were joined last weekend by a visitor from Dunfermline group on a 6.5-mile circuit taking in three reservoirs below the Lomond Hills. As we approached the starting point at Craigmead the hills were obscured in mist and we began to wonder if we would have any of the picturesque views promised by our walk leader (aka your correspondent). However, within less than half an hour of starting the walk we had reached Ballo, the first of the reservoirs, and already there were signs that the gloom was beginning to lift. As we continued towards Harperleas reservoir the sun broke through and we had a pleasant stroll along the water's edge. After a break for refreshments we headed up a grass path into Harperleas Woodland, which provided a delightful mix of shaded paths through the trees and expansive views to the surrounding countryside



beneath the now clearly visible Lomonds. Emerging from the woods we followed a farm road leading to Holl reservoir. After a short ascent on a gorse-lined path (or perhaps whin) we arrived at our lunch stop, offering more splendid views. By now the sun was quite strong, which had several of us reaching for sunscreen. We continued uphill for another short stretch to be rewarded at the top with another lovely view over Ballo, dotted with fishing

boats in the dazzling sunshine. Now we were heading downhill, but your correspondent had warned that this was merely a brief respite before a last 'prolonged moderate ascent', with a couple of false summits, at the edge of a field. We tackled this with several pauses to enjoy the views, which were indeed worth stopping for. On arriving at the top we rejoined the minor road which took us back to the car park. Over well-deserved refreshments at a local garden centre we agreed that, notwithstanding that final uphill gradient, this had been a very enjoyable walk.



Our next walk is on Sunday 28th May, an 8-mile countryside walk from St Monans to Kellie Castle on quiet roads and estate paths. 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