

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



On a cold, grey, frosty morning 8 members and one guest gathered at the Fluthers Car park before departure to Auchterarder for the start of the walk to Cloan Glen. The road was trouble free and we met up again in the town to start the 6-mile walk up through Cloan Glen and return via Bellshill. A minor road led us up to the impressive Cloan House where, just before the driveway, we turned onto a woodland track. This followed the Cloan burn and we gradually climbed along the path to our first short stop for drinks. Further up through the trees we had to bypass two fords via some steps and a decidedly dodgy narrow path, care needing to be taken considering the frosty conditions underfoot. A photo opportunity arrived when we had the large waterfall behind us, before continuing up the track to meet a minor road. Unfortunately, the low clouds obscured the views to the north and east. We all knew they were there, we just couldn't admire them. A lunch stop was taken at a derelict shed, originally because it was a fine place to see the view; by now the cloud was clearing slightly and we could make out the tops of the hills above the low-lying cloud. From there it was virtually all downhill back to Auchterarder, the path taking us alongside Kincardine Wood on what is known as 'Johnnie Mathie's Path'.



This is not the famous singer, but a route reputedly taken daily by a local postman. We finished after just 3 hours, the walk leader having seriously overestimated the time for the walk. Having booked tables at a local café, we found that we had nearly 50 minutes to fill, so the walk was extended to take in the Mill Lade walk. As it was, the café was very accommodating and the cakes, scones and drinks all received high praise making it a fitting end to the day.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 6th December, a 4.5-mile linear walk along the coastal path from Anstruther to Crail. 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