

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

Seven members of St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers travelled to west Fife last Saturday for a 6-mile walk through Devilla Forest, near Kincardine, taking in four lochs.



Arriving at the completely full Forestry Commission car park, our two carloads were obliged to decamp to a layby further down the A985. After several minutes of walking next to the pounding traffic we were glad to escape into the forest and start our walk along the Red Squirrel Trail. Our leader informed us that 'devilla' is thought to originate from the Gallic for 'bad farm', reflecting the boggy terrain which made it unsuitable for agriculture. We had an early coffee stop at the

tranquil Bordie Loch, where your correspondent relayed a recent conversation with one of our regular walkers, who has been posted missing during the summer; he assures us that all is well and, like Arnie, he will be back. We continued along the track around Moor Loch, almost completely overgrown with irises and bullrushes, and on to the largest of the lochs, Peppermill Dam. There our leader had chosen a splendid spot for lunch which provided lovely views of the many Canada Geese congregated on the other side of the loch, as well as a solitary fisherman drifting past in the foreground. Our route then took us along a succession of paths to Keir Dam, where we had to step carefully across a small outflow from the loch. As we emerged onto a forest road our leader invited us to choose whether it was right or left to the car park; throughout the walk we had seen several signs pointing to 'car park' so perhaps it was no surprise that more than half of us failed this navigation test! Safely back at the cars we headed towards Kincardine where our leader, with no help whatsoever from his passengers, chose the scenic route via the Kincardine and Clackmannanshire Bridges. As one of our number wittily remarked, we will remember this walk as the four lochs and two



bridges. Our plan to stop at Powmill for refreshments was thwarted on discovering that the café was closed for refurbishment, so we carried on to Kinross garden centre. There our very friendly waitress quickly sized us up and, to our great amusement, enquired kindly if we had come by bus. This completed a grand day out with plenty of laughs and great camaraderie.

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday), a 6.5-mile circular walk from Gauldry through Bottomcraig, Balmerino Woods and over Coultra Hill. 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.standrewsnefirramblers.com](http://www.standrewsnefirramblers.com)