

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



A good turnout of 15 Ramblers enjoyed a 6-mile walk in Blairadam Forest near Kelty at the end of February. We set out from the car park on a gently ascending track, with a stop for coffee before continuing to the highest point on our route. The tracks were muddy in places, but largely free of surface water – much more pleasant underfoot than on our previous outing. A couple of miles further on we joined a minor road taking

us downhill towards our lunch stop, where we settled on a conveniently situated stone wall. After lunch we turned off the road onto another forest track for the final stretch. The relatively short distance back to the car park caught most of us by surprise, but even more unexpected was the sight of two emus strutting around a farmyard. We finished with the usual refreshments at Lochend, having enjoyed a very pleasant day's walking in good company.



Our leisurely 5-mile walk in early March saw a lively party of 18 heading on a somewhat dreich morning to St Vigeans, on the northern outskirts of Arbroath. The hamlet is known for its striking red sandstone church and its collection of elaborately carved Pictish stones, which are preserved in the local museum. On our arrival we were greeted by a very hospitable custodian of the church, who offered us an interesting guided tour inside it (much more insightful than the brief paragraph on its history that had been prepared by our walk leader, aka your correspondent). After this unexpected bonus we set out into the countryside and

followed a minor road for a couple of miles to East Mains of Colliston. There we had our lunch break, sitting on the remains of the former Colliston rail station platform. The old railway track bed provided a pleasant tree-lined route back to St Vigeans, and gave some protection from the light drizzle which came on with a mile still to go. Adjourning to a nearby café, we continued the lively conversation before making our way back to Fife – an excellent day out.



Our next walk is on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March, a 7-mile walk at Ladybank Woods through deciduous and coniferous woodland on good tracks and some minor roads. 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)