

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



Nine members and two visitors from Dundee turned out at the end of last month for our 8-mile, low-level circuit by the banks of the River Ericht at Blairgowrie. Our leader (aka your correspondent) made an inauspicious start to proceedings by driving into the car park via the designated bus lane; fortunately there were no further lapses in navigation (if you ignore her minor hesitation at a bridge on the return leg of the walk). At first our route on the south side of the river took us away from its

edge, along a quiet minor road and into open countryside. On turning off the road we stopped for coffee, perching on the remains of a wall at the edge of a field, and still with no sign of water, prompting one of our number to question whether this really was the riverside walk described in the programme. Not long afterwards we arrived at said river as promised, and we followed its course along field edges and wooded sections, which surprisingly were not too muddy, to reach our turning



point at Kitty Swanson's Bridge. This is named after a local woman who used to operate a small ferry crossing on this stretch of water in the late 1800s. Once across the bridge we had a welcome break for lunch. Suitably restored, we continued to follow the bends of the river for a couple of miles, noting the storm debris as well as evidence of beavers from the well-gnawed birch trees and stumps beside the path. The final stretch took us along a minor road beside a lade which had once powered the local textile industry, and before long we were back in the town. After stopping for refreshments at a nearby hotel we emerged into a steady drizzle, and were thankful to have avoided this during our walk.



Our next walk is tomorrow, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, a 7-mile circular walk from Cameron Reservoir to Drumcarrow Craig, on woodland paths, farm tracks and minor roads, with splendid views over St Andrews and the Eden Estuary. 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)