

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

A fine mid-summer Saturday morning greeted thirteen Ramblers, including three visitors from neighbouring Dundee group, as we gathered at Camperdown Park for a fairly leisurely 6-mile walk to Templeton Woods and Clatto Reservoir. We set out alongside Camperdown House, following a roadway into the woodland and then onto a track up to the busy A923. Safely across, we turned towards Birkhill and shortly afterwards joined our next woodland path in Birkhill Woods. Walking along its northern edge with clear views across the open countryside towards the Sidlaws, we arrived at, but did not cross, the Angus border. Instead we turned right into Templeton Woods, where the track led us past the prominent Gallowhill Water Tower (which nevertheless one of our number failed to notice) and continued to Clatto Reservoir. As we



began our circuit of the reservoir we shared our collective, though not extensive, knowledge of waterfowl as we headed towards the far side and our destination for lunch at some picnic benches in the sunshine. During this break our resident handyman, observing a faulty hinge on your correspondent's coffee flask, impressively whipped out a pair of pliers from his backpack and repaired the offending item. Pliers do not normally feature on the Ramblers' essential equipment list – but perhaps they should!



Repaired and refreshed, we completed our circuit of the reservoir's embankment and on reaching the exit were delighted to come across a pair of swans and their seven, quite large



cygnets resting at the edge of the path. Maintaining a respectful distance, we observed them for several minutes before retracing our steps back into Templeton Woods as far as the water tower. Here we followed another path along the edge of Downfield golf course which eventually led back to the unavoidable A923. Back in Camperdown again our shady path under the trees skirted its eastern edge before emerging into the full sun of the park's open space and the final stretch back to the car park. There several of

the company said their farewells while the usual suspects made a short diversion, this time crossing the Angus border, for post-walk refreshments at a favourite country café.

Our next walk is on Wednesday 7th August, a 6.5-mile walk from Luthrie to Norman's Law, a gradual climb through woodland and open countryside with fine views of the Tay and North Fife, and a steep but short climb to the Law. 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