

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



Despite the ever-changing weather forecast for last Saturday, there was an encouraging turnout of thirteen for St Andrews & North East Fife Ramblers' 6.5-mile walk from Collessie to Cairnie Hill, near Lindores. We set out in mild sunshine from the village hall into Collessie Den, carefully avoiding the waist-high nettles as we made our way up the narrow, gently ascending path to Braeside. From there we followed a grass track and crossed a field to reach the edge of Woodmill Plantation, where we stopped for refreshments while enjoying clear views over to the Lomond Hills. We continued along the edge of the wood before dropping down to join the core path, a rough track leading steeply uphill. With some breaks to 'enjoy the view', we levelled out briefly before continuing with a more gradual climb to our destination for lunch, the summit of Cairnie Hill, one of Fife's Marilyn's at 748 feet above sea level. We then began our descent on a steep path which suddenly opened onto a splendid view over Lindores Loch. Making our way downhill our leader (aka your correspondent) was paying particular attention to this part of the route, where she had gone slightly astray on the recce; this time she found the correct, and much easier route and we emerged back onto the core path without a long detour. The undulating track took us to a path heading towards Monimail, and despite some black clouds hovering not too far away the threatened rain remained at bay. At Monimail we stopped to visit the imposing Tower, the remaining part of a palace of the archbishops of St Andrews.



Our last climb of the day took us up the narrow steps of the Tower's three storeys to the rooftop, providing lovely views over the surrounding countryside, before we completed the final part of the walk along the minor road back to Collessie. To round off an unexpectedly rain-free and pleasantly warm day out, we adjourned for refreshments to a well-known café in Cupar.

Our next walk is on Sunday 30th June from Leven to Lundin Links, a 6-mile circular walk from Silverburn Park taking in part of the coastal path, Lundin Woods and Letham Glen on easy paths and tracks with some minor road walking. 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