

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



Twelve St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers travelled to Loch Leven at the end of March for a 7-mile walk taking in part of the Heritage Trail at Burleigh Sands and the adjoining countryside. The three carloads chose varying routes to reach the starting point (each convinced that they had the best one) and, finally assembled, we set off along the loch shoreline in unexpected sunshine. We stopped to explore the old, abandoned Orwell Church before turning away from the loch towards Wester Balgedie. Shortly afterwards we paused for refreshments, revisiting a previously 'borrowed' location overlooking a pre-season cricket ground. As we set off

again the rain, which we had seen looming in from the west, eventually caught up with us prompting some to hastily don waterproof gear. This coincided with a section of walking along the busy B919, requiring us to skirt around some large puddles; commendably, motorists slowed down respectfully for us and we avoided being splashed as they passed. Gratefully, we turned onto a minor road towards Killyford Bridge and then onto



a track with a moss-covered wall where we had our lunch break. By now the rain had cleared and we enjoyed lovely views towards Benarty Hill and West Lomond, with slivers of snow still visible on the hilltops. As we continued on the path taking us back towards our starting point we opted for a slight diversion to visit the remains of Burleigh Castle, former home to the Balfours of Burleigh. From there it was a short woodland walk back to the car park in anticipation of a visit to a favourite café next to the Scottish Gliding Centre, before heading home.

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday) 6th April, a 6-mile walk on farm and woodland tracks near Strathkinness, with views over the Eden estuary, and returning to St Andrews via the Coastal Path. 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