

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

We had another good turnout of fourteen Ramblers last week for our 5.5-mile walk at Newtyle, a favourite destination on account of its old railway trackbeds. We began by



following one such track out of the village, stopping for drinks when we reached a minor road at Camno Crossing. After a short section of road walking to Newbigging we turned onto a path between fields which led to another railway trackbed, and then uphill to woodland and our destination for lunch. Before leaving the wood we stopped to visit the Polish Priest's Cross, a memorial to a wartime chaplain who died while walking there, and still standing despite the various storms which



have brought down several trees very close to it. Descending from the plantation we joined our final trackbed to return through the village and back to the car park. We completed the day with post-walk refreshments at another favourite destination on the outskirts of Dundee – a fine leisurely day out!



Last Sunday attracted even more walkers as seventeen of us gathered in Comrie, dubbed the 'Shaky Toon' on account of the earthquakes that occur in this area, and an unfamiliar venue for most of us. Our walk leaders had had to revise their original plans, having found the path to the Deil's Cauldron blocked by fallen trees and deciding that the proposed climb to the Melville Monument was perhaps an uphill stretch

too far. To start with we headed away from our intended route, crossing the River Earn to visit Earthquake House, a small building erected around 1874 to provide a location for a seismoscope and probably the first ever purpose-built earthquake observatory. After this interesting diversion we returned to the town centre to pick up a woodland track leading towards the River Lednock. Our leaders had chosen a tranquil spot for our first break, perched among the trees above the Wee Cauldron. Continuing through the wood we emerged onto Monument Road, passing the path to the off-limits Deil's Cauldron and joining a track down to the river and across the Shaky Bridge, recently replaced and apparently not as shaky as its predecessor. Our route now turned back in the direction of Comrie, providing



good views of the Melville Monument towering above on the far side of the river. With our thoughts turning increasingly to lunch, we stopped for our break in a small clearing. From there we gradually descended towards the river again, with a short diversion, to arrive back in Comrie. We adjourned for teas and cakes at Comrie Croft, a lovely venue and, despite some of us having to retreat indoors to escape the wasps desperate to sample the jam for our scones, an excellent conclusion to our scenic walk.

Our next walk is on Saturday 23rd August, an 8-mile circuit at Newburgh with views over the River Tay, towards Jamesfield and returning via an old track said to have been used by the Romans, Robert the Bruce and Queen Victoria. 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