

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

A mild sunny morning attracted a good turnout of fifteen walkers, including a couple of visitors and a brand new member, for our recent 5.5-mile walk at Balcarres Estate near Colinsburgh. The most challenging part of the day was to find parking spaces in the busy car park at Charleton Golf Club, with the club's kind permission. Once we had squeezed into assorted nooks and crannies we set out towards the Estate, the track – and most of those we followed throughout the day – living up to the often-used walk description 'may be muddy in places'.



A little further on we stood by to allow horses and hounds to pass before continuing towards Balniel. After a short drinks stop we briefly joined the B941 and then turned back into the Estate, stopping to admire the lodge at the entrance with its emblematic window carvings and gargoyles. Shortly afterwards we left the main track, disappearing into the shrubby woodland and following a narrow 'secret' path up to the Tower, a folly perched on the top of Balcarres Craig. This was our lunch stop, providing a splendid sunlit view to the villages below and the familiar landmarks of the Forth. Lunch over, we walked down through the woodland, carpeted with snowdrops, picking up a driveway through the Estate and retracing our steps to the now much quieter golf club car park. A full complement then headed towards St Monans for post-walk refreshments, a sociable conclusion to a delightful walk.



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Our next walk is on Sunday 9th March, a 6.5-mile circular walk at Craighall Bridge, Blairgowrie along riverside and field edges, with some 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