

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



Eleven Ramblers turned out on an overcast Sunday morning for a 7-mile circular walk at Limekilns and Charlestown on the shores of the Forth. Starting at Limekilns Pier we headed east along the coastal path, passing the harbour at Bruce Haven and joining Windylaw Path, an old right of way originally used to convey coffins down to the small cemetery at the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Rosyth Church. The path led us gently uphill, offering good views

as we looked back to the towering blue gantry crane at Rosyth and the three bridges beyond. Traffic lights at roadworks on the busy A985 made for an unusually easy crossing to the minor road towards Douglasbank cemetery. On reaching the woodland at Bellknowes we had our coffee break and then continued on the track to Wester Gellet farm and the minor road beyond, turning west shortly afterwards onto a track over Gallowridge Hill. This provided great views towards Dunfermline Abbey, at the same time posing a conundrum for one of our number who experienced a temporary loss of bearings. We joined another track westward to our lunch stop at a bridge over the Lyne Burn, the site of the sad loss overboard of our Walks Co-ordinator's drinks flask on the recce two weeks earlier. On the move again, we turned south past the grounds of Pitliver House to cross the main road for a second time and rejoin the coastal path taking us down into Charlestown. "The Run", a steep but short path led us downhill to the harbour and the old limekilns, from where a leisurely walk by the shoreline brought us back into Limekilns. On our way home several of us stopped at Kinross for welcome post-walk refreshments, grateful that the rain which had threatened at intervals during the walk was only now catching us up.



Three days later eight of us set out once again on a dreich morning from Aberdour Railway Station, on a 5-mile circuit taking in another section of the coastal path and Braefoot Plantation. After passing the golf course on our way towards Braefoot we had good views on our left to Inchcolm and the remains of the Abbey, and on our right a pretty carpet of snowdrops beneath the trees. We continued on a path past the oil terminal and into the plantation, where it became what is best described as undulating. Most of us stayed in the shelter of the trees for our short break there, two of our number opting for a panoramic view from a nearby bench overlooking, once again, the Forth bridges. We continued on a track to the – owned by the canons of 1170s for almost 500 years – Latin into practice, translating We then turned east and back retrace our steps to Aberdour, home to a very friendly café for drinks and an impressive selection of delicious cakes.



Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday) 22<sup>nd</sup> February, a 5.5-mile circular walk in Balcarres Estate, a moderate low level route on good tracks and paths through woodlands. 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.standrewsnefiramblers.com](http://www.standrewsnefiramblers.com)