

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

Fourteen Ramblers assembled at Ferrytoll car park in pleasant sunshine last Saturday for a 6.5-mile walk at North Queensferry, beneath the three bridges over the Forth. The first section took us past the scrap yard at Inverkeithing, described as 'a not particularly



auspicious start' and certainly one of the least scenic parts of the Fife Coastal Path. Thankfully the view improved when we reached the outer shoreline of the Forth and



headed towards Carlingnose Point wildlife reserve. On rounding the point we caught our first glimpse of the rail bridge, prompting the emergence of several smart phones to capture the towering structure from every conceivable angle. Arriving in North Queensferry, we stopped by the War Memorial for a refreshment break, basking in the sunshine while we gazed at the bridge. Forcing ourselves to move on from this comfortable spot we continued through the village before taking an 'off-road' route underneath the road bridge. This narrow overgrown path proved something of an obstacle course, with several fallen trees to be scrambled over, under or around, all successfully negotiated and preferable to the



alternative of walking beside the busy road above. We emerged beneath the Queensferry Crossing to reach the now unoccupied house originally named St



Margaret's Hope, and renamed Admiralty House when it became the residence of the Commander in Chief Coast of Scotland in 1916. Our next port of call was St Margaret's Marsh, an area of reclaimed land and now a Site of Special Scientific Interest. We followed the shoreline beside the Forth, encountering yet another obstacle in the form of large boulders blocking the track; the workaround for this was a narrow path through a dense thicket of tall vegetation to the far side of the boulders. After our exertions we were glad to break for lunch at the shoreline and enjoy more splendid views of the Forth and the bridges. We now headed inland towards Rosyth, passing the ruin of Rosyth Castle and turning



eastwards to follow a woodland path before joining the Fife Pilgrim Way. There followed an uphill stretch along field edges to reach the summit of Castland Hill with yet more stunning views over the Forth. From there we began our descent to



Inverkeithing, crossing a bridge over the motorway and through a grass park back to Ferrytoll. During our post-walk refreshments in a familiar café at Kinross we agreed that this had been an interesting and varied walk, with the 'three-bridge experience' a particular highlight. A walk to be repeated, it seems!

Our next walk is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, a 6.5-mile walk at Newtyle along an old railway track bed towards Ardler, branching up towards the Polish Cross monument. 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](http://www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com)