

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

Twelve Ramblers travelled to Dunkeld last Sunday for a 7-mile walk at The Hermitage, one of our favourite destinations. Setting out in pleasant sunshine beside the River Braan we took the gradually ascending path to the Pine Cone, a wooden shelter overlooking the River Tay and the hills beyond, where we enjoyed expansive views during our welcome drinks stop. After returning to the Braan on the same path we stopped at Ossian's Hall, originally built by the Duke of Atholl in 1757 as a retreat, hence the name of The Hermitage. The now restored building looks over the dramatic Black Linn waterfall, which kept the photographers amongst us busy for several minutes. We carried on along the leafy riverside path, stopping en route for a few minutes to explore Ossian's Cave, and then on towards the picturesque Rumbling Bridge and our lunch destination in a shady spot beneath the trees. Our route continued through the wood and onto a track in open countryside via Tomgarrow to reach the edge of Tay Forest Park. There we turned left to follow the Braan path – unlike on the recce, where the walk leader and your correspondent had opted for a more adventurous, slightly off-piste route which had proved to be suboptimal. The Braan path led us gently downhill towards the hamlet of Inver and after a few noisy minutes walking beside the A9 we were back at the car park. Excellent post-walk refreshments followed at Bankfoot, another favourite destination, before we made the journey back to Fife.



Our next walk is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May, an easy 6-mile circuit at St Monans on the coastal path with a country walk via Balcaskie Estate. 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.standrewsnefiframblers.com](http://www.standrewsnefiframblers.com)