

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



Earlier this month we enjoyed a 6-mile walk by the River Tay at Dunkeld in pleasant October sunshine – a welcome contrast to the persistent rain of the week before at Aberfoyle. Setting out along the eastern bank of the river lined in glorious autumn colours we followed Fiddler's Path, named in honour of the famous local fiddler Niel Gow. On reaching the A9 we climbed up to cross the river via the Jubilee Bridge, and after a noisy ten minutes beside the rumbling traffic we were glad to retreat underneath it at the far end and stop for lunch beside the woodland path on the western bank. Continuing beside the river we admired the many photogenic large mushrooms nestled amongst the leaves, but despite our best efforts with search engines we failed to identify them. Where the River Braan joins the Tay we circled back towards the village of Inver to cross over the bridge and head back into Dunkeld. Our favourite watering hole beckoned at Bankfoot, where we rounded off an excellent walk by making a large dent in their supply of delicious cheese scones before setting off for home.



Ten days later at Pitmedden Forest we welcomed a guest who was giving Ramblers a try for the first time. Starting from Glentarkie car park we followed a 7.5-mile undulating route through the woodland, with clear views southward to the Lomond Hills and over the River Tay to the north. We stopped for lunch at Carpow Hill, sitting beneath large pylons which did have the merit of pointing us to our intended post-walk refreshment

stop far below at Jamesfield. Our leaders had meticulously planned a route that took us wherever possible away from the main tracks and onto much kinder surfaces underfoot, on winding paths through the trees. There we found more splendid varieties of mushroom (we did manage to name fly agaric) as we made our way back to the car park. Then it was off to Jamesfield to reward ourselves after another lovely woodland walk.



Our next walk is on Wednesday 5th November, a 5.5-mile walk at Balcaskie and Gillingshill, and through the grounds of Kellie Castle. 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