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

February 2015

On Sunday 1st February, the sun shone again for the final stage of the Fife North – South Traverse. 16 members and visitors met firstly at Lower Largo on the Firth of Forth and left some cars at the Car Park there, before squeezing into others for the short journey to Ceres. We started the walk by travelling up a minor road passing Craighall Mains Farm, and onto Harleswynd and Newbigging of Craighall. This section of the walk involved quite a bit of road walking, but it was very quiet and the marvellous conditions that day made it a very enjoyable walk. After a coffee stop near Gathercauld, we gradually climbed up to New Gilston and along to Woodside. Here we left the roads, and followed a farm track down to Baldastard, with the Firth of Forth laid out below. Unfortunately, the sun shone so fiercely on the water, that nothing could be seen of the Lothians on the other side. We admired the restored Tower House and farm buildings as we passed Pirrwindy, and gradually dropped down towards the sea, with Largo Law on our left. We had lunch amongst the gravestones of Largo Cemetry, before walking through Upper Largo and following the burn down to the Temple Car Park at Lower Largo. 11 of the company had completed all 3 sections of the Traverse and were rewarded with Certificates recognising this feat.

Saturday 14th was a dull misty morning, but 26 members and visitors gathered at Ceres for a circular walk to Tarvit Hill. We began along the Waterless Road to Denhead Farm, then down to Craigrothie. There had been rain in the previous week so conditions were extremely muddy in places, however after we stopped for coffee by the Tarvit Doocot, the mist began to lift. We admired millions of Snowdrops on the Estate and half of our number made the detour to the top of Tarvit Hill to admire the expansive views. Lunch was enjoyed by Scotstarvit Tower, before we squelched through more mud to Chance Inn, then on to Craigrothie again and back along the ridge road to Ceres.

The last day of the month was overcast, and there was a brief flurry of rain as we pulled our boots on, but that was the last of the rain we saw. Twenty members and visitors met at Hawes Pier, under the Forth Bridge for an 8 mile walk on the Dalmeny Estate. The weather was mild and we were sheltered from any winds as we walked East by the shores of the Forth. After a brief coffee stop by Dalmeny House we walked by woodland paths until we met the river Almond. The Ferry which operated here is long gone, so we turned back along the beach to Eagle Rock and stopped for lunch on the beach by Long Green. The sun shone while we gazed at wading birds and Cramond Island. The return journey varied slightly and gave us plenty to see. Roe deer, Woodpecker, red squirrel and buzzards were all in evidence as we made our way back to South Queensferry.

You would be welcome to join us for a walk in March.

Sunday 15th. Dundee Law Circular. 7 miles. For Details: Tel. 01592 749170.

Saturday 28th. Auchterarder and Cloan Glen Circular. 8 miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 474305.