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

**July 2015**

As you’ll have noticed July was no better than June as far as weather was concerned. The rain was torrential on 4th July and our walk arranged for that day had to be cancelled. Saturday 18th was so windy at St Andrews that The OPEN was postponed for much of that day. Fortunately, we were walking further west in Fife and actually had a great day. Twenty members set off from the car park at Markinch Railway Station, in breezy sunshine, passed Sythrum Farm on a track to Coaltown of Balgonie. Then on to an ancient road known as the Queen’s Road. Once used by Mary, Queen of Scots this track goes over disused railway lines and amongst old mine workings down to the Barrel Bridge over the river Ore. We stopped for a brief coffee stop in woods by open cast workings, currently being re-instated to farmland. At the Standing Stanes Road, Queen Mary headed for her ship at West Wemyss, but we crossed onto another disused railway track turning east to East Wemyss. We found a sunny sheltered spot for lunch in Kingslaw Park, unfortunately meeting an impudent dog who stole food from one of our party. We then walked down to inspect the ruins of MacDuff Castle and enjoy fabulous views over the Forth. Then it was just a short walk along the Fife Coastal Path to Buckhaven and a bus back to Markinch.

Wednesday 22nd saw the St Andrews & N.E. Fife Ramblers Group celebrate their 25th Anniversary. A group of keen walkers met in 1990 and their inaugural walk was along the coastline to The Rock & Spindle. 25 years later some of them joined newer members to cover the same walk, on a sunny morning, before adjoining to The Rufflets Hotel for a lovely lunch. They were welcomed by the current chairman, Jim Coates and also enjoyed hearing from the Guest Speaker, David Thomson who was there to congratulate St Andrews & N.E. Fife Ramblers on behalf of Ramblers Scotland.

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

Sunday 2nd. DundeeJack theRipper Walk & Talk. 6miles. For Details: Tel. 07936382339.

Saturday 15th. Birnam Hill & Inchewan. 8.5miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 474305.

Wednesday 19th. Hopetoun Monument. 6miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 650798.

Saturday 29th. Acharn to Aberfeldy. 10miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 652903.