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

May 2015

The weather forecast was not promising for Saturday 9th of May, but 19 members & visitors met at Moncreiffe Hill on a wet morning, but the day improved as it went on and shortly they were casting off the waterproofs. Once at the top of the Hill, there were not only good views, but interesting wooden sculptures to admire and roe deer to glimpse. The sun came out by lunchtime, and they were able to gaze on fields of Cowslips amongst the young trees. Perseverance was rewarded with a grand day for a walk.

May was proving to be a rather chilly month, but Wednesday 13th looked to be the best day of the week and 18 members and friends met at Balmullo for a mid-week walk. The leader had to start with an apology, as the walk distance had been incorrectly advertised as 6.5 miles, when it was in fact 8.5 miles. However, he was able to explain that this could be satisfactorily dealt with, and they set off in fine weather, through farmland and woodland to Logie for a Coffee break. Then on along farm tracks around Craigsanqhar and down to Fingask. They stopped for lunch on a sunny hillside with views of the surrounding countryside before continuing via Craigfoodie to Pitcormie. Here those who wished could bow out and enjoy the hospitality of Thai Teak, while the others walked on by Airdits and Cuplahills to Balmullo. Everyone then returned to Thai Teak for tea and scones.

Ten members & visitors met at Glen Fearnach on Saturday for a wonderfully scenic walk up the Glen. In idyllic May weather, and accompanied musically by a Cuckoo in the initial stages of the walk – a 15 mile round trip to the former Shepherd’s cottage at Daldhu and on to Loch Loch. There was still some snow on Beinn a’Ghlo, but down in the glen all was green and the contrast between the cultivated area around Glen Fernate Farm and the wild land at the head of the glen made for a walk full of interest. Highland Cattle and lambs contributed to the picture-perfect landscape and although the deer had retreated to the high tops, there was ample evidence of their presence. Sometime was spent at the Memorial Cairn to the 9 man crew of the RAF Hercules Aircraft XV193 which crashed to the South of Loch Loch in 1973, and at least one member of the group ventured on to satisfy his desire to paddle in the Loch. The Gaelic name Gleann Fearnach would translate romantically as ‘the glen of Alder-water’. Beinn a’Ghlo has a similarly colourful translation as ‘the hill of the veil’ or ‘the hill of the mist’ – a description which did not apply on this occasion when it could be viewed in it’s entirety, with the snow covered summit contrasting with the blue sky.

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

Saturday 6th. Cortachy & Airlie Monument. 7.5miles. For Details: Tel. 01382 541267.

Sunday 21st. Glen Sherup & Ochils Circular. 9miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 839117.

Wednesday 24th. Dunblane, Ashfield & Kinbuck. 7.5miles. For Details: Tel. 01334 470066.